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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

Letter dated 9 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that you arrange for the distribution as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21 (j), of the decisions and declarations adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-seventh ordinary session and fifth ordinary session of the African Economic Community, held at Lusaka from 9 to 11 July 2001 (annex I), and the decisions of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its seventh-fourth ordinary session and ninth ordinary session of the African Economic Community, held at Lusaka from 5 to 8 July 2001 (annex II).*

(*Signed*) Elfatih Mohamed Agmed **Erwa**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Sudan
Chairman of the African Group for the month of October

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* The annexes are being circulated in the languages of submission only.

Annexes to the letter dated 9 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Annex I

Decisions and declarations adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-seventh ordinary session and fifth ordinary session of the African Economic Community

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AHG/Decl. 1 (XXXVII)

DECLARATION ON THE NEW COMMON INITIATIVE (MAP AND OMEGA)

1. **WE**, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting at the 37th Session of Heads of State and Government in Lusaka, Zambia from the 9 to 11 of July 2001, have undertaken an in-depth and critical review of the political, economic and social situation in our Continent as presented in the report of the Secretary General to the 74th Session of the Council of Ministers;

2. **ARE FULLY AWARE** of the fundamental changes which have occurred in the world since the beginning of the 1990s. These include the establishment, enlargement as well as strengthening of economic and trading groupings, the conclusions of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, the creation of WTO, and the rapid progress in information and communication technology. Consequently, Africa needs to take urgent and effective steps to avoid marginalization and ensure that it becomes an active partner in the emerging world economic order. To this end, Africa must adopt a new vision for its revival and development, and translate this vision into an appropriate and coherent Programme of Action;

3. **REAFFIRM** that the Revival and Development of Africa are primarily the responsibility of our Governments and Peoples. Consequently, we are determined to establish the conducive political, economic and social environment and create the required structural economic transformation in our countries with the objective of achieving a human centered and sustainable development.

4. **RECALL** the endorsement of the 5th Extraordinary Summit of the OAU, held in Sirte, Libya from 1-2 March 2001, of the work done regarding the Revival and Development of Africa by Presidents Mbeki of South Africa, Obasanjo of Nigeria, Bouteflika of Algeria, Hosni Moubarak of Egypt and Wade of Senegal, respectively;

5. **COMMEND** the efforts of the five Presidents for producing a single coordinated and inclusive Plan for Africa's renewal based on the two initiatives, namely, the Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Programme (MAP) and OMEGA Plan, which complement each other;

6. **REITERATE** our commitment and determination to uplift the living conditions of our people through the promotion of collective self reliance as enumerated in the Lagos Plan of Action, the Abuja Treaty and the Cairo Agenda for Action;

7. **FURTHER COMMIT** ourselves to the objectives of the Declaration which we adopted at the Fourth Extraordinary Session of our Assembly in Sirte, The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on 9 September 1999 in which we decided to establish the African Union;

8. **RECOGNIZE** the need to reassert and revitalize the existing continental development strategies in order to achieve self sustained development of our Continent;

9. **ADOPT** the Strategic Policy Framework and the New African Initiative as well as its Programme of Action and **REAFFIRM** our commitment to the provisions of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community and the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

10. **DECIDE** to present the African Common Initiative at the UN General Assembly in its September 2001 Session for endorsement and **CALL UPON** the international community particularly our development partners and the United Nations system to support this Initiative and to assist Africa in its implementation;

11. **DECIDE** to convene in Dakar from 15-17 November 2001 a Summit of Heads of State and Government with the participation of international economic and financial institutions as well as the private sector on the theme: Financing the New Common Initiative;

12. **DECIDE** to set up a Follow-up Committee comprising five (5) Heads of State, promoters of the New Common Initiative and of ten (10) other Heads of State to ensure a continuous follow-up on this Initiative, particularly the establishment of management institutions for the New African Initiative;

13. **DECIDE** to enlarge the African delegation to the G8 with the inclusion of President Abdoulaye Wade.

AHG/Decl.2 (XXXVII)

DECLARATION ON THE RESOLUTION OF THE LAND QUESTION IN ZIMBABWE

1. The Summit recalled Declaration AHG/ST/1 (XXXVI) adopted by the 36th Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Lome, Togo in July 2000.

2. **REAFFIRMED** that the resolution of the land issue is central to ensuring durable peace, stability and economic development in Zimbabwe.

3. **TOOK NOTE** of the tireless efforts being coordinated by His Excellency President Olusegun Obasanjo of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to mediate between Zimbabwe and Britain in respect of resolving the land issue in Zimbabwe.

4. **REITERATED** its demand for Britain to honour its colonial obligation to fund the land resettlement programme in Zimbabwe in accordance with the Lancaster House Agreement.

5. **CALLED ON** Britain to cooperate fully and enter into dialogue with the Government of Zimbabwe with the purpose of finding a final solution to this colonial legacy.

AHG/ST.1 (XXXVII)

VOTE OF THANKS TO DR. SALIM AHMED SALIM, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAU

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government, meeting in its Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session in Lusaka, Zambia from 9 to 11 July 2001,

Taking Note of the fact that the term of office of Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim expires at the end of September 2001,

Recognizing the tireless and tremendous efforts deployed by Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim at the helm of the OAU General Secretariat during his three successive terms of office (1989-2001), which contributed in no small measure to the consolidation of the OAU, thus ensuring its relevance to Africa's needs and its place in the world;

Bearing in mind the numerous achievements realized by the OAU thanks to his devotion, his foresightedness, his self-abnegation and his total commitment in the defence of the principles and objectives of the Organization, as well as the ideals of Pan-Africanism both within the Continent and at all international fora,

Noting in particular the dynamism and efficiency with which he piloted the process which so happily culminated in the birth of the African Union:

1. **EXPRESSES** its profound gratitude to Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim for the dynamic and visionary leadership, as well as the high sense of responsibility with which he managed the affairs of the Organization;

2. **CONGRATULATES** him on the numerous achievements realized by the Organization during his term of office, particularly on the efforts he invested in the transformation of the OAU into the African Union;

3. **REITERATES ITS GRATITUDE** to him for his invaluable contribution to the political, economic and social integration of the Continent, as well as to conflict prevention, management and resolution, all of which immensely facilitated the defence of Africa's interests in the concert of Nations and ensured the consolidation of the

continent's place in the Third Millennium, in this era of globalisation;

4. **DECIDES** to award a Decoration to Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim at the First Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, and **REQUESTS** the next Secretary General to take all appropriate measures and determine the practical modalities for the implementation of this decision.

AHG/ST.2 (XXXVII)

MESSAGE FROM THE 37TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE OAU TO THE UN CONFERENCE ON ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

(NEW YORK 9-20 JULY 2001)

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), meeting in our 37th Ordinary Session in Lusaka, Zambia from 9 to 11 July 2001,

Reiterating our deep concern about the persistence of the devastating effects of the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons on peace, security, stability and sustainable development of Africa,

Aware that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons fuels inter and intra-state conflicts, seriously undermines international humanitarian law, creates an environment that promotes criminality and smuggling, hampers good governance and generates disastrous consequences, particularly among children, women, old people, refugees and other vulnerable groups,

Convinced that excessive accumulation and unbriddled circulation of small arms is a global phenomenon with economic, political and social stakes, which calls for concerted action on all fronts involving all stakeholders, manufacturers and purchasers at national, regional and international levels,

1. **REAFFIRM** our commitment to the African Common Position that is "balanced, integrated, and consensual", formulated by the OAU Ministerial Conference on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Africa held in Bamako from 27 November to 1 December 2000;

2. **WELCOME** the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons In All Its Aspects (New York. 9-20 July 2001)

with a view to adopting an International Programme of Action, that is precise, realistic and implementable, focusing on prevention of illicit trafficking, strengthening export control measures, reducing arms surplus and monitoring existing stocks;

3. **URGE** the above mentioned UN Conference to take into consideration the Common African Position on the question of proliferation of light weapons, and on ways and means of ensuring more effective arms control in the Continent;

4. **REAFFIRM** our political commitment to harmonise, pursue and consolidate our actions with a view to developing a global African response throughout the Continent, commensurate with our ambitions for Africa and for our peoples;

5. **APPEAL,** to this end, to the International Community to provide all necessary financial and technical assistance for the implementation of this programme of action, with the effective participation of the African civil society, organizations, particularly women and youth organizations, African regional initiatives and programmes, especially the ECOWAS Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Light Weapons, the SADC Programme of Action on the firearms, ammunition and other related materials, as well as the Nairobi Declaration;

6. **APPEAL** for the establishment of a close and long term international partnership between the OAU, the UN and the International Community as a whole for the eradication of this phenomenon from our Continent.

AHG/ST.3 (XXXVII)

MESSAGE TO THE G8 SUMMIT OF GENOA (Italy) from 20 to 22 July 2001

The 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU):

1. **Concerned** with the high level of under-nutrition in the African Continent;

2. **Taking into consideration** the slow progress towards halving the number of hungry people by the year 2015;

3. **Welcomes** the establishment of a Trust Fund in FAO to be financed by voluntary contributions, initially for an amount of US$500 million, to serve as a catalyst for accelerating food production and improving access to food in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Low Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) and Small Island Developing States, and also for the prevention, control and eradication of transboundary pests and diseases of plants and animals;

4. **Considers** that the mobilization of such resources would greatly facilitate the implementation of the agricultural programme of the New African Initiative;

5. **Calls on** the Heads of State and Government of the G8 countries to ensure generous contributions to the Trust Fund and to participate personally in the World Food Summit (WFS) in Rome on 5 to 9 November 2001.

AHG/ST.4 (XXXVII)

Motion of Support for Algeria

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its 37th Ordinary Session in Lusaka (Zambia), from 9 to 11 July 2001.

Reaffirming the objectives and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the OAU, in particular those related to the respect of sovereignty and independence of Member States and non-interference in their internal affairs,

Recalling the historical role played by Algerian in the liberation of the Continent from the colonial domination and apartheid and, in the defense and promotion of interests of Africa,

Recalling also, the tireless efforts of Algeria in favour of the emancipation of African peoples and the enhancement of the inter African solidarity,

Recalling further, the major contribution of Algeria to the search for solutions to the conflicts that affect the Continent within the framework of African solidarity and to the economic, cultural and technical development of African countries:

1. **WELCOMES** the progress made by Algeria, under the leadership of President Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA, in deepening democracy and promotion of economic and civil harmony;

2. **EXPRESSES** its solidarity with the People of Algeria and its support to their endeavours towards national revival;

3. **EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN** about the positions adopted and other initiatives taken by foreign parties, aimed at interfering in the sovereign decisions of Algeria, which is engaged in promoting national recovery, in a context of democracy and social progress;

4. **CONDEMNS** foreign interference in the internal affairs of African States and calls for the setting up of African mechanisms that will involve political parties and the civil society for addressing more appropriately the interests of African peoples in building modern States;

5. **REAFFIRMS** its support for the actions taken by President Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA, at both national and international levels, in favour of peace, security and development, as well as for the promotion of the causes and the interests of Africa worldwide.

AHG/ST.5 (XXXVII)

VOTE OF THANKS

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies Heads of
State and Government,
Excellencies Heads of
Delegation,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Invitees
and Observers.

We have now come to the end of our deliberations which have been both exhaustive and wide-ranging. We have reviewed the progress accomplished in the implementation of the Sirte Declaration, and identified the concrete actions that need to be undertaken in the weeks and months ahead in order to translate the African Union into reality. We have also debated other issues of extremely vital importance to our Continent and our peoples. I would like in this connection, to refer among other things, to the discussion we have just concluded on the New African Initiative which resulted from the merger of MAP and OMEGA Plans, as well as our discussion yesterday on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and related infectious diseases, in the light of the results of the Abuja Extraordinary Summit. We have also elected the new Secretary General of our Continental Organization.

Our discussions were all the time characterised by a spirit of dialogue and mutual respect. We have all been keen to reach the necessary compromise even when our view points initially seemed to be wide apart. It is only our common commitment to the ideal of African Unity and our determination to lift our Continent from the abyss of poverty and make it play its rightful role in the concert of nations, that have enabled us to achieve these results.

There is no doubt in our minds that our peoples have followed our deliberations with hope because the aspiration to African Unity is one thing that is shared most on the Continent. We have the duty and obligation not to dash this hope. For this reason, beyond the need to popularize the African Union and its Constitutive Act, we should faithfully translate into concrete measures, each of the decisions that we have adopted, be it in regard to the conflicts which have continued to tear our Continent apart or in regard to financial, economic and social matters. There is a need for us, next year in South Africa, to proudly show our peoples and the whole world that the commitments we have made in Lusaka had been scrupulously respected. On this will depend the credibility of our Continent, Africa, and that of the African Union.

We owe the success of this Summit to Zambia, its people and its President H.E. President Chibluba. I would like, on behalf of our Assembly to express our sincere gratitude and to transmit our eternal thanks to Zambia and its President H.E. President Frederick Chiluba.

I wish to conclude by thanking you all for the honour you have bestowed on my country by asking me to move this Vote of Thanks on behalf of this august Assembly. We see in this gesture a symbolic manifestation of the solidarity which the OAU and Africa have always accorded to my country Côte d'Ivoire.

AHG/Dec. 160 (XXXVII)

DECISION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIRTE SUMMIT DECISION ON THE AFRICAN UNION

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **On the Ratification of the Constitutive Act:**

   URGES all those Member States that have not yet ratified the Constitutive Act to do so expeditiously and before the inaugural session of the African Union;

3. **On Consultations with Member States:**

   MANDATES the Secretary-General to work with Member States through the Permanent Representatives and experts, the results of whose work should be examined by a Representative Committee of Ministers to be established for this purpose before final submission to the Council and the Assembly;

4. **On the Launching of the Organs of the African Union:**

   MANDATES the Secretary General to undertake the necessary consultations with Member States with a view to working out the modalities and guidelines for the launching of the Organs of the African Union, including the preparation of the Draft Rules of Procedure of these Organs and ensuring the effective exercising of their authority and discharging their responsibilities. In undertaking this task, priority should be given to the launching of the key Organs, namely: the Assembly, the Executive Council, the Commission and the Permanent Representatives Committee.

5. **On the Commission:**

MANDATES the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States to submit proposals regarding the structure, functions and powers of the Commission;

6. **On Popularising the African Union:**

(i) **URGES** all Member States to take the necessary steps to popularize the African Union among citizens at all levels so that the African Union can be truly a Community of Peoples, bearing in mind that the primary responsibility of popularizing the African Union belongs to each Member State;

(ii) **FURTHER REQUESTS** the General Secretariat and the Regional Economic Communities to undertake the necessary complementary actions to popularize the African Union.

7. **On the Organs of the African Union and its Relationship with Other Bodies:**

(a) The Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC):

(i) **STRESSES** the importance of involving African non-governmental organizations, socio-economic organizations, professional associations and civil society organizations in general in Africa's integration process as well as in the formulation and implementation of programmes of the African Union;

(ii) **REQUESTS** the Secretary General in consultation with Member States, to submit to the 76th Ordinary Session of Council, a comprehensive report on ECOSOCC, with recommendations on:

1. its structure, functioning, areas of competence and relationships to other organs of the Union;

2. the procedure and criteria for selecting the members of ECOSOCC, including their terms of office;

3. the relationship between ECOSOCC and African regional non-governmental organizations and professional groups;

4. the Rules of Procedure of ECOSOCC and the preparation of its work programme.

(b) The Economic and Social Commission:

DECIDES that in view of the establishment of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, as well as of the Specialised Technical Committees that report to the Executive Council of the African Union, the ECOSOC provided for in the Abuja Treaty will cease to exist at the end of the transition period.

8. **On the Incorporation of other Organs:**

(a) The Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution as an Organ of the African Union:

(i) **CONSIDERS** that the objectives and principles stipulated in the Cairo Declaration establishing, within the OAU, a Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution constitute an integral part of the declared objectives and principles of the African Union;

(ii) **DECIDES** to incorporate the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution as one of the

Organs of the Union in accordance with Article 5 (2) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

(iii) **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to undertake a review of the structures, procedures and working methods of the Central Organ, including the possibility of changing its name.

(b) The Regional Economic Communities (RECs):

(i) **RECALLS** the Protocol on Relations between the African Economic Community and Regional Economic Communities;

(ii) **REAFFIRMS** the status of the Regional Economic Communities as building blocs of the African Union and the need for their close involvement in the formulation and implementation of all programmes of the Union;

(iii) **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to undertake necessary consultations with all the RECs in order to examine the implications of the Constitutive Act of the African Union on:

1. the existing institutional, operational and programmatic relationship between OAU and RECs;

2. the current and future programmes of the RECs in relation to the objectives of the African Union;

3. the Protocol between the AEC and RECs, with a view to its amendment or to preparing a new protocol to govern the relationship between the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities.

(iv) **CALLS ON** the policy organs of the RECs to initiate a reflection on the relationship between the African Union and the respective RECs, including the adoption of appropriate decisions on the most effective modalities for actualizing this relationship.

(c) **OAU Specialized Agencies:**

(i) **MANDATES** the Secretary General to undertake a review of the existing OAU Specialized Agencies so as to determine their continued relevance and make concrete proposals on their possible incorporation as Specialized Agencies of the African Union;

(ii) **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to convene as soon as possible, a meeting with all the relevant Specialized Agencies, so as to define all aspects of their relationship with the African Union with emphasis on the modalities for their full involvement in the programmes of the African Union and all the functional, institutional and programmatic dimensions of the relationship.

9. **The Specialized Technical Committees (STCs)**:

(i) **TAKES NOTE** of the existence of ministerial conferences and commissions and of the role of Africa's partner institutions in these organs, and **STRESSES** the need for ensuring that they operate within the framework of the African Union as its integral part;

(ii) **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to prepare and submit to Council a comprehensive report on:

1. all aspects of the functioning of the STCs, including their terms of reference and modalities for programme formulation and implementation;

2. the relationships between the STCs and similar organs of the Regional Economic Communities, African governmental and non-governmental organisations and international institutions;

3. streamlining of the activities and functional and programmatic relationship between the STCs and the existing ministerial sectoral conferences and commissions.

10. **On the Signing and Ratification of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament:**

APPEALS to all Member States to sign and ratify the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament as expeditiously as possible so as to ensure the speedy establishment of the Pan-African Parliament as one of the organs of the African Union.

11. **On Reorienting the Programmes and Budgetary Resources of the OAU and Management of the Transitional Period:**

(i) **AUTHORIZES** the Secretary-General to re-visit and re-orient the programmes of the General Secretariat to enable it to undertake the additional responsibilities and corresponding additional programmes arising from the implementation of the Constitutive Act and the operationalisation of the African Union during the transitional period.

(ii) **AUTHORIZES** the Secretary-General to:

1. review the current Programme Budget (2001/2002 Financial year) and to re-allocate the budgetary appropriations contained therein in order to implement activities related to the transition from the OAU to the African Union in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative, Financial and Budgetary Matters, including the activities relating to the popularization of the African Union;

2. explore the possibility of mobilizing extra-budgetary contributions from Member States, OAU Partners and others;

3. undertake studies, with the assistance of experts, to identify alternative modalities of funding the activities and programmes of the African Union, bearing in mind that the Union cannot operate on the basis of assessed contributions from Member States only, and to make appropriate recommendations thereon.

12. **On the Devolution of OAU Assets and Liabilities:**

AUTHORIZES the Secretary-General to:

(ii) undertake the necessary measures for the devolution of assets and liabilities of the OAU to the African Union in accordance with Article 33 (1) of the Constitutive Act;

(iii) review and, where appropriate, seek the amendment of OAU agreements with other parties, including the Headquarters and Host Agreements.

13. **On Preparation of the Paraphernalia or Symbols of the African Union:**

AUTHORIZES the General Secretariat to continue to use the OAU Logo, Flag and Anthem until the General Secretariat or the Commission initiates and finalizes the process of their review for gradual adaptation or replacement through competitions and **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to include this task/activity in the work programme of the OAU during the transitional period and to prepare and submit a progress report for consideration by the inaugural session of the Assembly of the Union.

14. **On the Commemoration of Africa Day and Union Day:**

(i) **REAFFIRMS** its earlier decision to the effect that 25 May should be commemorated as Africa Day and **URGES** all the Member States to observe it as an official holiday;

(ii) **DECIDES** that 2 March should be commemorated as Union Day and **URGES** all Member States to observe it appropriately.

15. **On the Duration of the Transitional Period:**

DECIDES that, in view of the magnitude of the tasks to be performed and bearing in mind the need for consultations with Member States, the transitional period shall be for a period of one year following the adoption of this decision.

AHG/Dec. 161 (XXXVII)

DECISION ON THE AFRICAN SUMMIT ON HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND OTHER RELATED INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the African Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases;

2. **COMMENDS** President Olusegun Obasanjo and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for successfully hosting the African Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases.

3. **REITERATES** its Commitment on the fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases as enshrined in the Abuja Declaration;

4. **ENDORSES** the Abuja Declaration, the Abuja Framework for Action and Framework Plan of Action for the implementation of the Abuja Declaration on the Control of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases in Africa;

5. **URGES** Member States to immediately operationalize the Framework Plan of Action as a minimum programme of Action and adapt it to the national context;

6. **APPEALS** to Member States to commit adequate national resources in order to meet the challenges posed by the epidemics and the implementation of the Plan of Action.

7. **ALSO APPEALS** to the International Community and to Donors and other Stakeholders to provide necessary financial support to Member States in the implementation of the Plan of Action either individually or through the Global Fund for the Control of HIV/AIDS.

8. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General, in collaboration with all relevant institutions and stakeholders to develop a Mechanism for implementation, monitoring and follow-up which will ensure that the Plan of Action is implemented in a sustainable manner by ensuring that the actions are well-coordinated and that evaluation and feedback are continuous and **FURTHER REQUESTS** UNAIDS, WHO and UNICEF to assist the OAU to put in place a small unit which will service the mechanism on a daily basis;

9. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Secretary General in consultation with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and in collaboration with ECA, ADB, WHO, UNAIDS and UNICEF to follow up on the implementation of the Abuja Plan of Action and report annually to the Assembly.

AHG/Dec.162 (XXXVII)

DECISION ON THE 14TH ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** of the 14th Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and **COMMENDS** the African Commission for the excellent work accomplished in the past year in the area of promotion and protection of human right's

2. **CALLS ON** the African Commission to pursue reflection on the strengthening of the African system for the promotion and protection of Human and People's Rights to enable it to effectively meet the needs of the African populations within the context of the African Union, and submit a report thereon as early as possible;

3. **AUTHORIZES** the publication of the 14th Annual Activity Report pursuant to Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

AHG/Dec. 163 (XXXVII)

DECISION ON THE PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE ON THE AFRICAN PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The Assembly:

1. **RECALLS** Decision CM/Dec.479 (LXX) of the 70th Ordinary Session of Council, held in Algiers, Algeria in July 1999 which endorsed the Cape Town Declaration on an African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment including the convening of a Partnership Conference to consider concrete action proposals to alleviate environmental problems based on the recommendations of its Preparatory Committee established to that effect.

2. **ACKNOWLEDGES WITH GREAT SATISFACTION** that the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) will be held in South Africa in September 2002, focusing attention of the world leaders on the environmental and developmental problems and need for effective solutions and **RECOGNIZES** the opportunity which WSSD represents in terms of the evolution of the African Process for the development and protection of the coastal and marine environment and its linkages to African sustainable development.

3. **FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES** the Land Water Initiative for Africa presented on behalf of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) by the Executive Director of UNEP at the 35TH Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU as reflected in paragraph 271 of the report of the Secretary General of the OAU Doc. CM/(...........) ;

4. **ENDORSES** the generous offer of the Government of Nigeria in its capacity as the Presidency of AMCEN, to convene not later than February 2002 a high level Preparatory Meeting of the Partnership Conference;

5. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General, in collaboration with the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to convene the Partnership Conference on the African Process for the Development and Protection on the Coastal and Marine Environment in conjunction with WSSD at the level of Heads of State and Government and **CALLS UPON** the African partners to be represented at the highest level;

6. **INVITES** all African States:

    a) to support and actively participate in the implementation of the African Process for the Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment;

    b) to liaise, through the Preparatory Committee, on preparation for the Partnership Conference; and

7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary General to report on the results of the Partnership Conference to the next Summit of the African Union.

AHG/Dec. 164 (XXXVII)

DECISION ON THE DECLARATION OF THE PERIOD 2001-2010 AS THE OAU DECADE FOR AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

The Assembly:

1. **WELCOMES** the proposal by Uganda to declare the Decade 2001 - 2010 as the OAU decade for African Traditional Medicine.

2. **RECOGNIZES** the important role Traditional Medicine continues to play in African societies, hence almost 85% of the African population resort to it for their health delivery services.

3. **RECOGNIZES FURTHER** that Member States and their governments need to acknowledge and build upon this traditional knowledge resource-base, thereby making the goal of health for all easier to achieve by mobilizing and using these resources more effectively;

4. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that it is unlikely that social, technical or economic changes in Member States over the next Decade will reduce significantly the dependency of rural populations on medicinal plants species resources.

5. **ENDORSES** the Nairobi Declaration formally recognizing Traditional Medicine as the most affordable and accessible form of healthcare system for the majority of the African rural population.

6. **REITERATES ITS COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT** for the on-going two processes initiated by the General Secretariat of elaborating:

   a) an African Model Law for the Protection of the rights of Local Communities, Farmers and Breeders and for the Regulation of Access to Biological Resources;

   b) an African Biosafety Model Law and an Africa-wide Biosafety System.

7. **CALLS** for a speedy finalizations of these two processes and **CALLS ON** Member States to use these models as a basis for finalizing their national legislation by adapting their provisions to the national context and within the framework of the WTO Negotiations;

8. **REQUESTS** the General Secretariat, in collaboration with relevant partners and stakeholders to also initiate a process to draw-up the appropriate elements for national legislation in relation to compulsory licensing, parallel imports and other aspects to incorporate in national patent laws that are important to increase access to vitally-needed medicines, and thereafter, to draft a "National Model Law" or 'Model elements to be incorporated into nation al patent laws" in Africa for this purpose;

9. **DECLARES** the period *"2001-2010, the DECADE FOR AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE"* and **REQUESTS** the General Secretariat, in collaboration with WHO and other interested stakeholders to assist OAU Member States to prepare a Plan of Action for implementation;

10. **FINALLY REQUESTS** the "Secretary General to report regularly to Assembly on progress made in the implementation of this Decision.

AHG/Dec. 165 (XXXVII)

DECISION ON THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE 1951 CONVENTION ON THE STATUS OF REFUGEES

WE, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), meeting in our 37th Ordinary Session in Lusaka, Zambia from 9 to 11 July, 2001:

RECALLING previous resolutions of the Heads of State and Government Declarations and/or OAU Council of Ministers Decisions/resolutions, on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa.

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the recurrent cycles of armed conflicts and persecution which generate displacement often on a massive scale, as well as by the absence of safe and timely solutions for millions of refugees in Africa who require international protection,

NOTING that 2001 will mark the 50th anniversary of the 1951 *United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees*, which together with its 1967 Protocol, as complemented by the *1969 OAU Convention governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa*, remain the foundation of the international refugee protection regime,

RECOGNISING with appreciation that the fundamental principles and rights embodied in these Conventions have provided a resilient protection regime within which millions of refugees have been able to find safety from armed conflicts and persecution,

REFERRING to the Comprehensive Implementation Plan (CIP) by the Special OAU/UNHCR Meeting of Government and Non-Government Technical Experts on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the 1969 OAU Convention on 29 March 2000 in Conakry which was endorsed by the 72nd session of the OAU Council of Ministers meeting in Lome, Togo,

ALARMED at the growing number of refugees throughout Africa and their terrible plight as well as the many challenges faced by States, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The latter being the key institution mandated to secure respect for the 1951 Convention by ensuring both legal protection and humanitarian assistance particularly in emergency situations,

AWARE that the problem of refugees is social and humanitarian in nature, and therefore should not become a cause of tension between States, and that as the grant of asylum may place unduly heavy burdens on host countries, a satisfactory solution of the problem of refugees can only be achieved through international co-operation and responsibility sharing.

WELCOMING the process of Global Consultations on International protection initiated by UNHCR to revitalize the international protection of refugees,

CONVINCED that the first-ever meeting of States Parties, jointly organized by the Swiss Government and UNHCR, will serve both to reinforce a truly global and meaningful commitment to the foundation principles, and contribute to the search for complementary and compatible new approaches to strengthen the protection of refugees and solutions to refugee problems:

1. **SOLEMNLY REAFFIRM** that the 1951 *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* and the 1967 Protocol, as complemented by the OAU 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, constitute the foundation of international refugee law and as such are pivotal in securing refugee protection;

2. **URGE** States that have not yet acceded to the Convention and the Protocol to join the 140 States including 49 OAU Member States who are currently party to these instruments, in order that, as soon as possible, all African states will have acceded to the international instruments on refugees;

3. **REAFFIRM** our commitment to the full implementation and follow-up of the Comprehensive Implementation Plan which will lead to strengthened and more effective implementation of the OAU 1969 Convention as well as of the 1951 Convention, including considering withdrawing reservations made at time of accession to the regional and universal instruments;

4. **AFFIRM** our determination to contribute to the Global Consultations on International Protection undertaken by UNHCR and their subsequent follow-up, with a view to consolidating the international refugee protection regime;

5. **REAFFIRM** the fundamental importance of the Office of the United Nations High commissioner for Refugees as the multilateral institution with the mandate to serve the protection of refugees and calls on Governments to further examine the mechanisms, resources and modalities available to UNHCR to enable it to fulfill its supervisory role.

6. **COMMIT** ourselves to finding durable solutions to refugee problems most importantly by facilitating voluntary repatriation, while endeavouring to create conducive conditions to that effect, and concomitantly to taking preventive measures, to peacefully resolve conflicts, to avoid forced displacement of populations.

AHG/Dec. 166 (XXXVII)

DECISION ON THE HOLDING OF A MINISTERIAL MEETING ON EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY CONTROL IN AFRICA

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposal by Burkina Faso to organize a Ministerial meeting whose central theme would be "Employment and Poverty Control in Africa" and **ENDORSES** its offer to organize this Ministerial meeting parallel to the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission;

2. **EXPRESSES** gratitude to President Blaise Compaore and the Government of Burkina Faso for their offer to host this Ministerial meeting;

3. **RECOGNIZES** the challenges facing African countries due to the current economic situation, globalization and technological changes as well as the increased risks of unemployment, underemployment and the resulting social exclusion;

4. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General in collaboration with the International Labour Office (ILO), the other regional and international institutions concerned, other stakeholders and the host country, to take all the necessary measures towards the organization of this meeting.

AHG/Dec. 167 (XXXVII)

DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN ENERGY COMMISSION (AFREC)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference of African Ministers of Energy held in Algiers from 23 to 24 April 2001 on the immediate establishment of the African Energy Commission (AFREC);

2. **ADOPTS** the Convention of the African Energy Commission.

3. **URGES** Member States to accede without delay to the Convention and make voluntary contributions towards the financing of the interim structure of AFREC;

4. **COMMENDS** the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria having accepted to host the headquarters of AFREC and for its commitment to provide the Commission with the necessary support including premises, equipment and supplies;

5. **REQUESTS** the President of the African Development Bank to cooperate closely with AFREC within the framework of the African Energy Programme being implemented by the Bank with a view to its future transfer to the African Energy Commission (AFREC), and provide the latter with the requisite technical and financial support;

6. **INVITES** the agencies of the United Nations System (FAO, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNEP, UNDESA) and other international organizations such as the World Energy Commission to lend technical, financial and material support to the African Energy Commission;

7. **CALLS ON** all Member States to participate actively in the Africa-Latin America Conference on Energy scheduled to take place in Algiers in the second quarter of the year 2002;

8. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to cooperate closely with Algeria, the host country of AFREC and the Bureau of the Conference of African Ministers of Energy for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the early establishment of an interim structure of the Commission to enable the latter to begin its activities without delay;

9. **CALLS ON** the Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters to consider the possibility of allocating the necessary resources for the take-off and operation of AFREC during the first years of its inception on the basis of a budget to be submitted by the General Secretariat;

10. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to submit a progress report to it on the implementation of this decision.

AHG/Dec. 168 (XXXVII)

DECISION ON THE LOCKERBIE ISSUE

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **RECALLS** decision EAHG/Dec.3 (V) adopted by the 5th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 5 March 2001;

3. **CALLS UPON** the UN Security Council to immediately and definitively lift the unjust sanctions and suspend the embargo imposed on Libya and which has no legal or moral justification following the positive stand, civilized handling and great cooperation displayed by the Jamahiriya in dealing with this issue;

4. **DEMANDS** the immediate release of the Libyan citizen Abdel Basset Al-Megrahi who has been convicted for political reasons totally unrelated to law; his continued detention may be regarded as an abominable kidnapping under all applicable laws and customs;

5. **REAFFIRMS** the right of the Great Jamahiriya to compensation for the material and moral damage it has suffered;

6. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to initiate the necessary steps, including the mobilization of financial resources, for the establishment of the Commission of Jurists which was established by decision EAHG/Dec. 3 (V) to follow up on all aspects related to the legal proceedings of the Lockerbie issue;

7. **RECOMMENDS** that the Current Chairman and other members of his Bureau make use of their good offices to undertake the necessary contacts with all the concerned parties with a view to ensuring a speedy and satisfactory resolution of the issue.

AHG/Dec. 169 (XXXVII)

DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ERADICATION OF TSETSE FLIES IN AFRICA

The Assembly:

1. **RECALLS** Decision AHG/156 (XXXVI) of the 36th Assembly of the Heads of State and Government which urged Member States to rise to the challenge of the campaign for eradication of tsetse flies from the continent of Africa;

2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** with satisfaction that the OAU Secretariat has prepared a Plan of Action for the implementation of the Summit Decision on tsetse flies eradication;

3. **URGES** the OAU Secretariat and the relevant offices in the affected Member States dealing with health, agriculture, livestock production, rural development and poverty reduction to include the objective of the said Plan of Action among their priority programmes for implementation;

4. **APPEALS** to the international community to provide technical, financial and material support and assistance to Member States in their efforts to eradicate tsetse flies.

AHG/Dec.170 (XXXVII)

DECISION ON THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION ON CHILDREN

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTES** of the recommendations of the 74th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and its Decision CM/Dec. 4 (LXXIV) on the Pan African forum on the future of children in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, held from 28 to 31 May 2001,

2. **EXPRESSES** its sincere thanks to the Arab Republic of Egypt for having hosted the forum and to UNICEF for its invaluable contribution;

3. **INVITES,** in particular, member states to reaffirm in a concrete manner their commitment to the cause of the African child, and to draw inspiration from the African Common Position adopted in Cairo as their contribution at the United nations General Assembly Special Session on Children to be held in New York from 19 to 21 September, 2001;

4. **URGES** member states which have not yet done so, to ratify the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the child;

5. **REQUESTS** African Heads of State to participate personally and massively in the Special Session in order to reaffirm the priority which Africa accords to the well-being of its children by respecting all their rights.

AHG/OAU/AEC/Dec. 1 (V)

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government:

Considering the Constitutive Act of the African Union,

Considering also Articles 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community,

Considering Further the Protocol on Relations between the African Economic Community and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs),

Having Considered the Report of the Council of Ministers,

DECIDES:

1. COUNCIL REGULATIONS

Regulations CM/OAU/Dec./Regl.1(VIII) and CM/OAU/AEC/Regl.1(IX) of the Council of Ministers are approved.

2. RATIFICATION OF AEC TREATY

Member States which have not yet done so are once again urged to ratify the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community or accede to it as early as possible.

3. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) The Government of the Republic of Togo is commended for having hosted the First Extra-ordinary Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture;

(b) The Secretary General is requested to urgently convene a meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Rural Economy and Agriculture as provided for in Article 25 sub-paragraph 1 (a) of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and Article 14 of the Constitutive

Act of the African Union, which would have the following main duties:

i) prepare a comprehensive programme, including a definite timetable for the establishment of an African Common Market of staple foods, and

ii) prepare a methodology for implementing the recommendations of the First Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Agriculture held in Lome, Togo, from 20 to 21 April 2001, with a view to finding, as a matter of priority, a solution to the problem of food security in the Continent.

(c) All Member States of the African Centre for Fertilizer Development are called upon to exert maximum effort to honour their financial obligations to the Centre, to enable it execute its programmes;

(d) Member States which have not yet done so, are urged to sign the Convention of the African Centre for Fertilizer Development and to accede to membership of the Centre;

(e) FAO is requested to provide technical assistance to the OAU General Secretariat, its Member States and the RECs in the implementation of strategies and programmes aimed at improving food security in Africa;

(f) Member States are called upon to support and participate actively, at the highest level, in the Conference of the World Food Summit Five Years Later scheduled to take place from 5 to 9 November, 2001 in Rome (Italy).

4. HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND OTHER RELATED INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(a) President Olusegun Obasanjo and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria are commended for successfully hosting the African Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other Related Infectious Diseases.

(b) Is reiterated the Commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases as enshrined in the Abuja Declaration;

(c) Are endorsed the Abuja Declaration, the Abuja Framework for Action and Framework Plan of Action for the implementation of the Abuja Declaration on the Control of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases in Africa;

(d) Member States are urged to immediately operationalize the Framework Plan of Action as a minimum programme of Action and adapt it to the national context;

(e) Appeal is made to Member States to commit adequate national resources in order to meet the challenges posed by the epidemics and the implementation of the Plan of Action;

(f) Appeal is also made to the international community and to donors and other stakeholders to provide necessary financial support to Member States in the implementation of the Plan of Action either individually or through the Global Fund for the Control of HIV/AIDS.

(g) The OAU Secretary General in collaboration with all relevant institutions and stakeholders, should develop a mechanism for implementation, monitoring and follow-up which will ensure that the Plan of Action is implemented in a sustainable manner by ensuring that the actions are well-coordinated and that evaluation and feedback are continuous;

(h) UNAIDS, WHO and UNICEF are called upon to help OAU set up a small unit to ensure the day-to-day functioning of the mechanism;

(i) The Secretary General is requested, in consultation with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and in collaboration with ECA, ADB, WHO, UNAIDS and UNICEF, to follow up on the implementation of the Abuja Plan of Action and report annually to the Assembly.

5. PROCLAMATION OF THE DECADE FOR AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

(a) The proposal by Uganda to declare the period 2001-2010 as the OAU Decade for African Traditional Medicine is welcome;

(b) The Nairobi Declaration which formally recognizes traditional medicine is endorsed as the most affordable and accessible form of health care for the majority of African rural populations;

(c) The Secretary General is requested to take necessary urgent measures to elaborate:

  (i) an African Model Law for the protection of the rights of Rural Communities, Farmers and Livestock Farmers and for the Regulation of Access to biological resources;

  (ii) an African biodiversity law and an Africa-wide biodiversity system.

(d) Member States are called upon to use these models as a basis for finalizing their national legislations by adapting their provisions to the national context and within the framework of the WTO negotiations;

(e) The General Secretariat is also requested, in collaboration with relevant partners and stakeholders, to initiate a process to draw up the appropriate elements for national legislations in relation to compulsory licensing, parallel imports and other aspects to incorporate in national patent laws that are important to increase access to vitally needed medicines and thereafter, to draft a "National Model Law" or "Model Elements" to be incorporated into "National Patent Laws" in Africa.

(f) The period 2001-2010 is declared "Decade for African Traditional Medicine".

6. ENERGY

(a) Note is taken with appreciation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference of African Ministers of Energy held in Algiers from 23 to 24 April 2001 which decided on the immediate establishment of the African Energy Commission (AFREC);

(b) OAU Member States are urged to accede without delay to the Convention on the African Energy Commission and make voluntary contributions towards the financing of the interim structure of AFREC;

(c) Tribute is hereby paid to the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria for its offer to host the headquarters of AFREC and for its commitment to provide AFREC with technical, financial and material assistance;

(d) The President of the African Development Bank is requested to cooperate closely with AFREC within the framework of the African Energy Programme implemented by the Bank with a view to the future transfer of the Programme to the Commission, and provide the latter with the requisite technical and financial support;

(e) The Specialized Agencies of the United Nations System (FAO, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNEP, UNDSA) and international organizations such as the World Energy Commission are invited to lend technical, financial and material support to the African Energy Commission;

(f) OAU Member States are also invited to participate very actively in the Africa-Latin America Conference on Energy scheduled to take place in Algiers in the second quarter of the year 2002;

(g) The Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters is requested to allocate the necessary resources for the take-off and operation of AFREC during the first years of its inception;

(h) The Secretary General is requested to:

i. cooperate very closely with Algeria, the host country of AFREC, and the Bureau of the Conference of African Ministers of Energy for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the speedy establishment of an interim structure of the Commission to enable the latter to begin its activities without delay;

ii. submit a progress report to the Assembly on the implementation of this Decision.

7. PROTECTION OF THE COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT

(a) Is recalled Decision CM/Dec.479 (LXX) of the 70th Ordinary Session of Council, held in Algiers, Algeria in July 1999 which endorsed the Cape Town Declaration on an African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment including the convening of a Partnership Conference to consider concrete action proposals to alleviate environmental problems based on the recommendations of its Preparatory Committee established to that effect;

(b) Note is taken with great satisfaction of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) which will be held in South Africa in September 2002, focusing attention of the world leaders on the environmental and developmental problems and on the need for effective solutions to these problems.

(c) The opportunity which WSSD represents is appreciated in terms of the evolution of the African Process for the development and protection of the coastal and marine environment and its linkages to African sustainable development;

(d) Note is also taken of the Land Water Initiative for Africa presented on behalf of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) by the Executive Director of UNEP at the 35th Assembly of OAU Heads of State and Government as reflected in paragraph 271 of the report of the Secretary General of the OAU.

(e) The generous offer of the Government of Nigeria is endorsed in its capacity as the President of AMCEN, to convene not later than February 2002 a high level Preparatory Meeting of the Partnership Conference;

(f) The Secretary General is requested in collaboration with the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to convene the Partnership Conference on the African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal Marine Environment on the sidelines of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) at the level of Heads of State and Government;

(g) All African States are invited to:

   i. support and actively participate in the implementation of the African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment;

   ii. initiate contacts through the Preparatory Committee, for the preparation of the Partnership Conference;

(h) Appeal is made to Africa's partners to be represented at the highest level at the Conference;

(i) The Secretary General is further requested to report on the results of the Partnership Conference to the next Summit of the African Union.

8. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES

(a) His Excellency, Mr. Alpha Oumar KONARE, President of the Republic of Mali is commended for the initiative he took in proposing the establishment of the African Academy of Languages as a factor of development and mutual understanding which could contribute to building and consolidating peace and African renaissance;

(b) The idea of establishing such an institution is welcomed;

(c) The Secretary-General is requested to deploy all efforts to set up and launch the activities of the Academy;

(d) All Member States, the civil society as well as the entire African and international scientific communities concerned are invited to actively participate in the Academy's activities;

(e) Appeal is made to all Africa's development partners to provide the necessary financial and technical support for the establishment and implementation of the Academy's activities.

9. EMPLOYMENT AND COMBATING POVERTY IN AFRICA

(a) Note is taken of the proposal by Burkina Faso to organize a Ministerial meeting whose central theme would be "Employment and Combating Poverty in Africa" and is endorsed its offer to organize this Ministerial meeting parallel to the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission;

(b) President Blaise Compaore and the Government of Burkina Faso are commended for their offer to host this Ministerial meeting;

(c) The challenges facing African countries due to the current economic situation, globalization and technological changes as well as the increased risks of unemployment, underemployment and the resulting social exclusion, are emphasized;

(d) The Secretary General is requested in collaboration with the International Labour Office (ILO), the other regional and international institutions concerned, other stakeholders and the host country, to take all the necessary measures towards the organization of this meeting.

10. PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ERADICATION OF TSETSE FLIES FROM AFRICA

(a) Decision AHG/156 (XXXVI) of the 36th Assembly of the Heads of State and Government which urged Member States to rise to the challenge of the campaign for eradication of tsetse flies from the continent of Africa, is hereby recalled;

(b) Note is taken with satisfaction that the OAU Secretariat has prepared a Plan of Action for the implementation of the Summit Decision on tsetse flies eradication;

(c) The OAU Secretariat and the relevant offices in the affected Member States dealing with health, agriculture, livestock production, rural development and poverty reduction are urged to include the objective of the said Plan of Action among their priority programmes for implementation;

(d) Appeal is made to the international community to provide technical, financial and material support and assistance to Member States in their efforts to eradicate tsetse flies.

Done in Lusaka, Zambia, on 11 July 2001

Frederick J.T. CHILUBA
President of the Republic of Zambia
Chairman of the Assembly

Annex II

Decisions adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its seventh-fourth ordinary session and ninth ordinary session of the African Economic Community

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CM/Dec.581 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE ORGANIZATION AS AT 31 MAY 2001

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **COMMENDS** all those Member States, which are up to date, having fully paid up all their assessed contributions to the OAU Regular Budget;

3. **EXPRESSES SERIOUS CONCERN** about the slow trend in settling outstanding financial obligations by some Member States, especially those which continue to accumulate arrears of contribution over several years;

4. **APPEALS** to all Member States with arrears of contributions to settle regularly and timely their financial obligations so as to endow the Organization with requisite resources to enable it meet its increasing challenges and discharge its functions under the best possible condition.

CM/Dec.582 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE SIXTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **COMMENDS** the work of the Committee and **URGES** it to continue to encourage Member States to honour their financial obligations;

3. **EXPRESSES** its serious concern about the increasing arrears of contribution which now stands at US $41,414,981.65, thus undermining the capacity of the Secretariat to carry out approved programmes and activities;

4. **DECIDES:**

    i) to grant temporary and exceptional exemption from sanctions until the opening of the Seventy-fifth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers to **Somalia** on condition that it submits a Rescheduling Plan and starts paying its assessed contributions in keeping with resolution CM/Res.1279 (LII) paragraph 2(d);

    ii) to also grant temporary exemption from sanctions to the following Member States which have paid 30% of their arrears of contribution until the opening of the Seventy-fifth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers: **Cape Verde, Central African Republic, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Niger and Sierra Leone**;

    iii) that the sanctions imposed on the following Member States be maintained, namely, **Democratic Republic of Congo, Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, Liberia, Mauritania, Sao Tome & Principe, and Seychelles;**

iv) that all defaulting Member States which present Rescheduling Plans, should ensure that apart from honouring their plans they also pay their assessed contributions to the regular budget;

v) that any Member State in arrears, but which pays 30% of the outstanding amount will be considered for temporary and exceptional exemption for a period up-to the opening of the 75th Ordinary Session of Council, provided it also honours its financial obligations to the current budget;

vi) that temporary and exceptional exemptions will not, in any way, influence the mandatory sanction prohibiting the recruitment of nationals of the defaulting countries as new staff members as provided for in Resolution CM/Res.1311 (LII). In this regard, the General Secretariat should ensure that the Resolution also applies to the recruitment of temporary staff such as the freelance technical staff;

vii) that the Committee and the Secretariat should explore ways and means of encouraging Member States, particularly those that have not submitted Rescheduling Plans to honour their financial obligations.

CM/Dec.583 (LXXIV)

NOTE OF APPRECIATION TO MEMBER STATES WHICH ARE UP TO DATE WITH THEIR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO THE ORGANIZATION

Council:

1. **SPECIALLY COMMENDS** the following Member States which to date have made full payment of their contributions for the Financial year 2001/2002 to the Organization:

    1. Botswana
    2. Namibia
    3. South Africa
    4. Zambia

2. **COMMENDS** those Member States which have no arrears of contribution to the Organization:

    1. Algeria
    2. Angola
    3. Burundi
    4. Chad
    5. Egypt
    6. Ethiopia
    7. Lesotho
    8. Malawi
    9. Mauritius
    10. Mozambique
    11. Senegal
    12. Swaziland
    13. Togo
    14. Tanzania
    15. Tunisia

CM/Dec.584 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE PAN-AFRICAN FORUM ON THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting the Pan-African Forum on the Future of Children in Cairo, from 28 to 31 May, 2001;

3. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to, in particular, UNICEF and Save the Children (Sweden), all the UN Agencies and other stakeholders for their continued support and assistance in the preparation of the Pan-African Forum on the Future of Children;

4. **WELCOMES** the outcome of the Pan-African Forum, namely, the African Common Position on Children, as Africa's contribution to the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Children to be held in New York in September, 2001;

5. **MANDATES** the First Lady of Egypt, Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak to present the African Common Position to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Children, due to be held in New York in September 2001; and to ensure that the voices of the children of Africa are heard therein;

6. **CALLS UPON** all Member States to renew and implement their commitments to African children as contained in the Cairo Declaration and to participate actively, at the highest level, in the UNGASS on Children in September 2001;

7. **FURTHER CALLS UPON** Member States, which have not yet done so, to speed up the ratification process of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

8. **URGES** Member States to implement the provisions of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, follow-up on the decisions and recommendations of the UNGASS on Children and implement the African Common Position on Children, more specifically the Plan of Action on the Future of the African Children;

9. **FURTHER CALLS UPON** Member States to send periodic reports on their activities and programmes related to children issues to the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child through the General Secretariat;

10. **REQUESTS** the General Secretariat to work closely with the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in collaboration with UNICEF and other stakeholders and to report to Council every two years on the follow-up of the implementation of the recommendations of the UNGASS and the African Common Position.

CM/Dec.585 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE OAU/UNDCP JOINT PROJECT ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OAU PLAN OF ACTION ON DRUG CONTROL IN AFRICA

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **COMMENDS** the OAU General Secretariat for the steps taken to eliminate the illicit production, trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in Africa;

3. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) for the invaluable contribution rendered to the Secretariat in the implementation of the OAU Plan of Action on Drug Control in Africa, through its funding of the Organization's project on Institutional Capacity Building;

4. **CALLS UPON** the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), after a thorough evaluation of the state of implementation of the Joint Project, to consider the extension of the period of this project for at least one additional year;

5. **MANDATES** the Secretary-General, in putting in place the new structure of the African Union, to create a **Drug Control and Crime Prevention Unit** within that structure, in view of the emerging seriousness of the drug abuse and trafficking situation in Africa, and especially the linkage between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS, conflicts and organized crimes in the Continent;

6. **APPEALS** to Member States to second if they so wish, an Expert on drug control, at their own expense, to assist the OAU General Secretariat during the negotiations for the extension and during interim periods in order to forestall a break in the implementation of the Plan of Action on Drug Control in Africa;

7 **URGES** Member States to strengthen their fight against Illicit Drug Abuse and Trafficking on the Continent, with the full collaboration of workers, employers, educational institutions, civil society organizations and other stakeholders;

8. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to explore ways and means of establishing a mechanism for **an African Fund for Drug Control on voluntary basis** as was recommended by the 22nd OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission in Windhoek, Namibia; and endorsed by the 70th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and the 35th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government both held in Algiers, Algeria in July 1999 and **CALLS UPON** OAU partners, donor agencies and the International Community to render the necessary support to the Secretariat in this endeavour;

9. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Drug Control Focal Point to step its activities in close collaboration with all the Regional Economic Communities, so as to overcome this scourge;

10. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to take appropriate steps aimed at updating the OAU Plan of Action for Drug Control in Africa in view of current emerging drug issues in the Continent so as to be in line with global approaches to solving the problem;

11. **FINALLY REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to submit reports on current drug situations in the Continent regularly to Sessions of the Council of Ministers and Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

CM/Dec.586 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **WELCOMES** the initiatives taken by the OAU and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) with a view to promoting their financial and technical cooperation and **INVITES** the management of BADEA and the OAU General Secretariat to carry out consultations as soon as possible, for the concrete implementation of this cooperation;

3. **WELCOMES** the organization of an "Afro-Arab Forum for the Promotion of Investments in the Agricultural Sector" within the context of the 3rd Afro-Arab Business Week and **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General, in collaboration with his counterpart of the League of Arab States, to take necessary measures in order to hold the Forum;

4. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** of the provision by the Malian Government to the OAU and the League of Arab States, of the premises for the Headquarters of the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute as well as the Residence of its Director-General, and **INVITES** the Secretary General, in consultation with the League of Arab States, to send a joint mission to Mali to inspect the said premises;

5. **FURTHER INVITES** the Regional Economic Communities, the concerned African institutions including the ADB in collaboration with the Arab institutions particularly the BADEA to render their technical and financial support towards the implementation of this project;

6. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** of the on-going preparations and the facilities accorded by the Host Country for the organization of the 5th Afro-Arab Trade Fair to be held in TRIPOLI-LEBANON from 6 to 14 October, 2001;

7. **ALSO INVITES** Member States to take appropriate measures for the widest possible publicity of this event, in order to ensure massive participation of the African countries, in the different aspects of the Fair;

CM/Dec.587 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE SPECIAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND FOR DROUGHT AND FAMINE IN AFRICA

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **APPROVES** the recommendations of the 25th Ordinary Session of the Policy Committee for the proper management of the Fund;

3. **ALSO APPROVES** the setting up of a Sub-Committee to examine the possibility of expanding the activities of the Fund to cover other natural calamities;

4. **REQUESTS** Member States which have received assistance from the Fund to submit, as a matter of urgency, their project implementation reports to enable the Secretariat undertake an evaluation thereof;

5. **COMMENDS** Member States who have made voluntary contributions and those who have honoured their commitments to the Special Emergency Assistance Fund;

6. **REITERATES ITS APPEAL** to Member States and the international community to provide financial, technical and material support to the Special Fund.

CM/Dec.588 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE STATUS OF OAU TREATIES

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **APPEALS** to all Member States to sign and ratify the OAU Treaties if they have not yet done so;

3. **REQUESTS** the General Secretariat to finalize the review of all OAU Treaties during the transitional period with a view to determining their continued relevance, and make recommendations thereon to Council.

CM/Dec.589 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS BY THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION "AFRICA ASSISTS AFRICA"

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary General on the request for Observer Status submitted by "Africa Assists Africa";

2. **GRANTS** Observer Status Category A to the Inter-Governmental Organization "Africa Assists Africa".

CM/Dec.590 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN** about the stalemate in the implementation process of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in Burundi and the continued deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in the country;

3. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the pursuit of hostilities and other acts of violence of which the civilian populations are the main victims, and **DEMANDS** that the belligerents embark without delay on negotiations for cessation of hostilities and conclusion of a Ceasefire Agreement;

4. **CONDEMNS** in no uncertain terms the armed groups which up to now have refused to end hostilities and join in the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Process;

5. **CALLS ON** the Parties to the conflict to overcome their differences in order to reach, as quickly as possible, a consensus on the presidency and transition modalities in accordance with the relevant recommendations of the 14th Summit of the Regional Initiative for Peace in Burundi;

6. **ALSO CALLS** on the countries of the region, and all the parties to the conflict, in close consultation with OAU, to seize the opportunity offered by the next Summit scheduled to take place in Arusha on 24 July 2001, to take appropriate measures to facilitate the implementation of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, particularly the cessation of hostilities;

7. **URGES** the neighbouring countries of Burundi to co-operate with the International Community with a view to preventing Burundian armed groups from pursuing their acts of aggression aimed at destabilizing Burundi;

8. **EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT** to the Facilitator of the Arusha Peace Process, Former President Nelson Mandela, for the untiring efforts he continues to deploy in expediting the implementation of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, including those deployed by President El Hadj Omar Bongo, President Joseph Kabila and Deputy President Jacob Zuma, within the context of the Arusha Peace Accord on Burundi regarding the cessation of hostilities;

9. **REITERATES** that the responsibility for the search for a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in Burundi lies primarily with the Burundian parties themselves, and therefore **URGES** them to co-operate fully and in good faith with the Facilitator and the countries of the Regional Initiative;

10. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to contact the UNHCR and the UN Security Council to look into the possibility of repatriating the Burundi refugees in Tanzania to Burundi and establish modalities to ensure the safety and security of the returning refugees;

11. **APPEALS** to the belligerents to scrupulously adhere to the international humanitarian law.

CM/Dec.591 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN THE COMOROS

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **WELCOMES** the progress achieved in the implementation of the Framework Agreement for Reconciliation in the Comoros signed in Fomboni on 17 February 2001, in particular, the establishment and the commencement of the work of all the Commissions and sub-Commissions provided for in the Framework Agreement;

3. **COMMENDS** all the Comorian Parties for their commitment to the reconciliation process, and **URGES** them to maintain the momentum to ensure the scrupulous and timely implementation of the Framework Agreement and **REQUESTS** the parties to quickly work out a new timetable for the implementation of the Framework Agreement which takes into account the need to expeditiously work towards the drafting of the constitution of the new Comorian Ensemble, the establishment of the transitional government of national unity and the organization of the constitutional referendum;

4. **WELCOMES** the visit of the Ministerial delegation of the countries of the Region and the OAU Troika to the Comoros, which took place from 4 to 7 June 2001, and **REQUESTS** them to continue to assist the Comorian Parties in their efforts towards the restoration of the unity and territorial integrity of the country, the speedy return to constitutional rule and post-conflict reconstruction;

5. **EXPRESSES** its gratitude to the countries of the Region and the General Secretariat for the financial contributions to the implementation of the Framework Agreement and humanitarian assistance, and **CALLS UPON** other Member States to do likewise in order to ensure the faithful and timely implementation of the Framework Agreement;

6. **TAKES NOTE** with appreciation of the convening by the World Bank of the meeting of the Friends of the Comoros, held in Paris, France, on 5 July 2001;

7. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the preparations by the General Secretariat and the Government of Mauritius of the Round-Table of Donors on the Comoros, scheduled to be held in Mauritius, and **APPEALS** to the international community, particularly to international financial institutions, the European Union, the United Nations system and bilateral donors, to support this initiative and provide all the technical and financial assistance needed for economic recovery and the socio-economic development of the country;

8. **DECIDES**, on the recommendation of the countries of the Region and the OAU Troika, and taking into account the progress achieved in the reconciliation process, to lift definitely the measures adopted by the OAU against the leadership of the Anjouanese separatist movement;

9. **REITERATES** its appreciation for the contributions made by the International Organization of the Francophonie, the League of Arab States, the European Union and the Organization of Islamic Conference to the reconciliation process in the Comoros and **CALLS** for greater coordination of their efforts with those of the OAU.

CM/Dec.592 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **REITERATES ITS SUPPORT** for the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement as the only negotiated framework accepted by all the Parties for arriving at a solution to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo and guaranteeing respect for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the DRC;

3. **WELCOMES** the unreserved readiness of the Parties to implement the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement as expressed in the Communiqué of the Third Summit of the signatory Parties held in Lusaka on 15 February, 2001, and the adoption of the Resolution 1341 (2001) of 22 February 2001 by the United Nations Security Council;

4. **COMMENDS** in particular President Joseph Kabila for his commitment to the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, especially resumption of the process of the Inter-Congolese National Dialogue;

5. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** that the Parties have, generally, respected the ceasefire and implemented the plans and sub-plans for disengagement and redeployment of forces and **URGES** the Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC) to complete without delay, its redeployment and disengagement to new defensive positions as defined in the Harare sub-plans, in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 1341 and 1355 and the commitment it made, particularly at the 11th session of the Political Committee held in Lusaka, Zambia, on 21 - 22 May, 2001;

6. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** at reported military operations in Kivu and incursions by armed groups into Rwanda and Burundi and **CALLS UPON** all the parties to discouraged such incursions;

7. **WELCOMES** the adoption by the Political Committee, of the plans for disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, repatriation and resettlement of the armed groups, and for the orderly withdrawal of all foreign forces from the DRC;

8. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION AT** the bilateral contacts among the countries signatories to the Lusaka Peace Agreement, **ENCOURAGES** them to pursue these contacts with a view to creating the conducive environment for the implementation of this Agreement, and **URGES** the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) to demilitarize the city of Kisangi and its surrounding areas without delay, pursuant to UN Security Council Resolutions 1304 and 1355;

9. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 1355 (2001) of 15 June 2001 which, among other things, extended the mandate of MONUC up to 15 June 2002 and reiterated the authorization it gave in its resolution 1292 (2000) for the deployment of a MONUC military contingent with a strength of up to 5537 men;

10. **APPEALS** to the Security Council to take into account, when designing and planning the third phase of the deployment of MONUC, of the need to guarantee the stability and security of the DRC after the withdrawal of foreign troops;

11. **EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT** for the co-location of the Joint Military Commission (JMC) with MONUC and **CALLS ON** the Parties to reach an agreement in this regard as quickly as possible;

12. **COMMENDS** the efforts deployed by the Facilitator, Sir Ketumile Masire, to prepare the Inter-Congolese Dialogue which culminated in the signing by the Congolese Parties in Lusaka on 4 May 2001 of a Declaration of Fundamental Principles for the Conduct of the Dialogue;

13. **WELCOMES** the announcement made by the Facilitator regarding the organization of a preparatory meeting to the Inter-Congolese Dialogue slated for 16 July 2001;

14. **APPEALS** to all the Congolese Parties to co-operate fully with the Facilitator and participate in the national dialogue in a spirit of tolerance and compromise;

15. **APPEALS ONCE MORE** to OAU Member States and the International Community as a whole to continue to lend their support to the peace process in the DRC, particularly the activities of the JMC and the Inter-Congolese National Dialogue;

16. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the United Nations Experts Group on the illegal exploitation of natural resources and other riches of the DRC, as well as of the reactions of the States and other players implicated in the report which should be completed with an addendum;

17. **APPEALS** to the United Nations to speed up the investigations on the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the DRC so as to draw the final conclusions and take appropriate course of action;

18. **REQUESTS** importing countries, while waiting for the completion of the investigation by the group of experts on the illegal exploitation of natural resources and other forms of wealth of the DRC, to set up appropriate mechanisms to identify the origin of these products with a view to limiting their transactions;

19. **EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN** at the humanitarian situation and the repeated violations of the international humanitarian law perpetrated in the DRC, **ALSO APPEALS** to all Member States as well as the International Community as a whole to step up their assistance to the war-affected populations, and **EXHORTS** the Parties to respect the International Humanitarian Law.

CM/Dec.593 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN SIERRA LEONE

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **WELCOMES** the progress achieved so far in the implementation of the provisions of the Lomé Peace Agreement and the Abuja Ceasefire Agreement, in particular the progressive deployment of UNAMSIL and the Sierra Leone Army (SLA) in new areas of the country, the advances in the on-going Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-integration Programme (DDR), as well as the improvement in the overall security situation in Sierra Leone, including the area along the common border between Sierra Leone and Guinea;

3. **ENCOURAGES** the parties and UNAMSIL to work towards the full deployment of UNAMSIL and the Sierra Leone Army throughout the whole country, including all the diamond producing areas. Council also **ENCOURAGES** the parties to bring to a successful end, the DDR programme, which constitutes an important pillar of the peace process as a whole;

4. **CALLS UPON** Member States and the International Community at large to make urgent financial and material contributions to the DDR programme to prevent the on-going implementation of that programme from stalling. In this regard, Council **WELCOMES** the convening by the World Bank in Paris, France, from 11 to 12 June 2001, of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund Conference in support of the Sierra Leone Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Programme, and **APPEALS** to international donors to make contribution to the Fund;

5. **APPEALS** to the International Community to provide UNAMSIL with adequate means to effectively carry out its mandate and **APPEALS FURTHER** to Member States and the International Community to provide additional troops to enable UNAMSIL achieve its required troop strength in accordance with the decisions adopted by the OAU, ECOWAS and the UN;

6. **APPEALS** to Member States and the International Community at large to urgently provide humanitarian assistance to the affected population in Sierra Leone and **FURTHER APPEALS** to the International Community to assist the Government of Sierra Leone in developing and funding post-conflict reconstruction programmes.

CM/Dec.594 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN SOMALIA

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **REITERATES** its commitment to the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Somalia, and **SUPPORTS** the efforts aimed at bringing a peaceful and lasting solution to the crisis in Somalia;

3. **REITERATES** its earlier call to the Transitional National Government (TNG) to intensify its efforts so as to bring about an all-inclusive and lasting national reconciliation, building upon the outcome of the Arta Peace Process and supports the efforts aimed at the establishment of the National Reconciliation Commission;

4. **REAFFIRMS** that a lasting solution to the conflict in Somalia can only be found through dialogue and involvement of all the parties in a spirit of mutual accommodation and tolerance and **COMMENDS** those political forces in Somalia which have agreed to engage in this process without preconditions;

5. **WELCOMES** the efforts being made by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to assist the Transitional National Government in its endeavours which aim at broadening and sustaining the peace process in Somalia through constructive engagement of the parties concerned, **FURTHER WELCOMES** the initiatives taken by the Current Chairman of IGAD H.E. President OMER HASSAN EL-BASHIR including the appointment of a Special Envoy as well as other Member States of IGAD and **ENCOURAGES** them to continue with those efforts in close collaboration with the OAU;

6. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** at the continued insecurity and prevalence of acts of violence in the country, especially in Mogadishu, and the consequences thereof for the humanitarian situation and the activities of humanitarian workers;

7. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the progress made by the Transitional National Government in the establishment of peace and security in the country and **REQUESTS** the OAU and the International Community to continue to assist the government in this regard;

8. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the war lords who persist in their stubbornness in blocking the peace efforts in Somalia;

9. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General, to work closely with IGAD, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Conference and the wider International Community, to continue to support the Transitional National Government in its efforts to sustain reconciliation and reconstruction in Somalia.

CM/Dec.595 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE CONFLICT INVOLVING COUNTRIES OF THE MANO RIVER BASIN UNION

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **UNDERLINES** its grave concern about the continued crisis among the countries of the Mano River Union;

3. **CALLS** on all the parties concerned to do everything possible to ensure the restoration of durable peace as soon as possible. In that regard, Council **ENCOURAGES** all the Member States of the Mano River Union to pursue a policy of good neighbourliness, avoid the use of force in resolving disputes, take measures to prohibit the activities of armed rebel groups operating on their respective territories and open all their borders without delay;

4. **CALLS** for further efforts to be made to implement the decisions adopted by the ECOWAS Summits of Bamako and Abuja, held in December, 2000 and April, 2001, respectively, and **WELCOMES** the establishment by ECOWAS of a Mediation Committee composed of the Presidents of Mali, Nigeria and Togo; and **EXPRESSES** the support of the OAU for the on-going efforts to convene a meeting to be attended by the three Presidents of the countries of the Mano River Union;

5. In the context of the decisions taken by the ECOWAS Heads of State, **REITERATES** the support of the OAU for the deployment of an ECOMOG Force at the borders of the three Mano River countries. Council **ENCOURAGES** the Governments of Liberia and Guinea to sign the respective Status of Forces Agreements to facilitate its deployment, and **APPEALS** to the International Community to provide financial support to ECOWAS in its efforts to deploy and sustain the Force;

6. **EXPRESSES** its continued concern over the alarming humanitarian situation in the countries of the Mano River Union. While expressing its appreciation to the international community for the assistance provided so far, **APPEALS** to Member States and the international community at large, including the UNHCR, to provide further assistance to the victims of the crises in the sub-region, and **FURTHER APPEALS** for more assistance to be delivered to the Government of Guinea which has incurred the burden of caring for refugees from other countries in the Mano River Union as well as the internally displaced.

CM/Dec.596 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN** at the escalation of the war and at its catastrophic humanitarian consequences, particularly on the already precarious situation of vulnerable people especially women, old people and children as well as displaced persons;

3. **WELCOMES** the Angolan Government reaffirmation of its commitments to the Lusaka Protocol as well as the measures taken to facilitate the search for a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict, particularly the adoption of the Amnesty Law, the establishment of a Peace and Reconciliation Fund and the announcement about the organization of elections in the year 2002;

4. **URGES** UNITA to translate into concrete action the statements it made regarding the validity of the Lusaka Protocol particularly by taking appropriate measures to end the hostilities as well as by discharging all its obligations under this Protocol;

5. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the work accomplished by the OAU Ad Hoc Committee on the Follow-up of the Sanctions imposed against UNITA by the United Nations Security Council and **URGES** all Member States to cooperate fully with this Committee especially by providing any information at their disposal and strictly complying with the sanctions against UNITA;

6. **REQUESTS** the OAU Ad Hoc Committee to pursue its efforts in conformity with the recommendations contained in its report to Council;

7. **ALSO EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the work done by the Monitoring Mechanism established by the United Nations pursuant to Resolution 1295 (2000) of 18 April 2000, as well as the activities undertaken by the Security Council Committee on Sanctions Against UNITA;

8. **URGES** the international community to cooperate fully with the United Nations to ensure strict application of the sanctions against UNITA;

9. **EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN** over the repeated violations of the International Humanitarian Law and **URGES** UNITA to comply with this Law and put an immediate end to its indiscriminate attacks against civilian populations and the personnel of humanitarian agencies.

CM/Dec.597 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE PEACE PROCESS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **WELCOMES** the progress made in the implementation of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities of 18 June 2000 and the Peace Agreement of 12 December 2000, which were signed in Algiers, Algeria, under the leadership of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, and **COMMENDS** the parties for the commitment they have demonstrated in the implementation of these two Agreements and the cooperation extended to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia (UNMEE);

3. **URGES** the parties to cooperate fully with UNMEE in order to address the outstanding issues, including those pertaining to the Temporary Security Zone;

4. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the commencement of the work of the Boundary and Claims Commissions and **URGES** the parties to cooperate fully with both Commissions;

5. **COMMENDS** the OAU Liaison Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (OLMEE) for its contribution to the peace process as well as UNMEE for the work done and its dedication to the implementation of the peace process;

6. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to all the countries which have extended support for the implementation of the peace process, particularly the countries which have provided assistance to OLMEE and UNMEE;

7. **CALLS UPON** Member States and the international community at large to continue to provide full support to the implementation of the Algiers Agreements in all their aspects;

8. **PAYS TRIBUTE** to H.E. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Algeria, for his outstanding contribution to the search for a solution to the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, which has led to the signing of the Algiers Agreements.

CM/Dec.598 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

Council :

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **EXPRESSES** serious concern about the alarming situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

3. **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP GRATITUDE** to countries of asylum for the hospitality and generosity extended to refugees and considering the heavy burden placed on them, **CALLS ON** the international community to extend its solidarity by increasing assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in the Continent;

4. **URGES** countries of origin and host countries, in consultation with the OAU and the UNHCR to promote the voluntary repatriation of refugees who wish to return home, in conformity with the relevant OAU Convention on the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa, the United Nations Convention on refugee status and other relevant international legal instruments, including the establishment of a safe and secure environment;

5. **APPEALS** to Member States and other concerned parties to address the security situation of refugees and aid-workers in accordance with this year's theme of Africa Refugees Day "Security of refugees and the challenges arising from the presence of armed persons in the refugee camps";

6. **COMMENDS** the positive steps so far taken by the OAU Commission on Refugees in the implementation of its Programme of Action adopted by the Council of Ministers in 1996 and **REQUESTS** the Commission to pursue its efforts;

7. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to continue to support all efforts being made at sub-regional and regional levels in the search for lasting solutions to the problems of refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

8. **REQUESTS** finally the Secretary General to intensify its cooperation with UNHCR with a view to repatriating the refugees to their countries of origin anytime the conditions for repatriation are fulfilled, including the establishment of safe havens.

CM/Dec.599 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE ILLICIT PROLIFERATION, CIRCULATION AND TRAFFICKING OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **WELCOMES** the adoption by the OAU Ministerial Conference, held in Bamako, Mali, from 30 November to 1 December 2000, of the Bamako Declaration on the African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, and **ENDORSES** the said Declaration;

3. **CALLS UPON** all Member States to participate fully and at the appropriate level, at the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, scheduled to take place in New York from 9 to 20 July 2001 and to promote the African Common Position as contained in the Bamako Declaration;

4. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to take all the necessary steps to ensure the follow-up of the Bamako Declaration, and **URGES** all Member States to implement the relevant recommendations contained therein;

5. **APPEALS** to the United Nations Conference to take into consideration the concerns and proposals articulated in the Bamako Declaration and **REQUESTS** the international community to assist the OAU and its Member States in their efforts to address the problem of the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons in Africa in a comprehensive, integrated, sustainable and efficient manner.

CM/Dec.600 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **RECALLS** resolutions 181, 194, 303 and 54/27 on Palestine, of the UN General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions 242, 252, 338, 465, 476 and 478 and **CALLS** for the respect of these resolutions;
3. **REAFFIRMS** the right of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization to exercise their inalienable national rights, including their right to return to their homes, recover their property, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the principles of international law and other pertinent resolutions of the UN;
4. **RECOGNIZES** the binding character of UN Security Council Resolution 237, which calls for the return of Palestinians displaced in 1967 as well as other relevant instruments, in particular UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (1948) which provides for the return of Palestinian refugees to their homes and property;
5. **CALLS UPON** the UN to establish a Commission to ensure the fulfillment of the process of return, in view of the fact that the right of return is one of the fundamental principles of a just and comprehensive peace in the region;
6. **CONDEMNS** Israel for using internationally prohibited weapons and excessive force against unarmed Palestinian civilians, its brutal practices against the innocent populations of the occupied Palestinian territories, the desecration of holy places; the imposition of a state of economic siege and closures; the destruction of agricultural lands and property; and the repeated incursions into areas under the control of the Palestinian National Authority;

7. **SUPPORTS** the right of the Palestinian people to receive immediate international protection against the ongoing killings and Israeli aggression, the desecration of Christian and Muslim holy places and **EMPHASIZES** the urgent need for Israel to respect all international humanitarian laws in the Palestinian lands occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, as provided for, by the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949;

8. **RECOGNIZES** the need for the convening of a meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, in order to enforce the Convention in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, in consonance with the statement issued by the meeting of the High Signatories held in Geneva on 15 July, 1999;

9. **CONDEMNS** the Jewish settlement policy in the occupied Palestinian territories including Jerusalem and **CALLS UPON** Israel to put an immediate halt to its policy of confiscation of Palestinian Lands, especially in Jerusalem and its suburbs and the building of new Jewish Settlements and the expansion of existing settlements, which constitutes violations of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 465 and 478;

10. **CALLS UPON** Member States and non-governmental organizations to boycott settlement products and trade relations with the producers and suppliers of such products from the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories;

11. **RECALLS** that the guarantee of respect for agreements signed and other tenets of international law are indispensable for the maintenance of international peace and security, **CALLS** for the full implementation of all peace agreements and urges the sponsors of the peace process, the parties concerned and the entire international community to deploy all efforts in order to revive the peace process and ensure its success;

12. **PAYS TRIBUTE** to the popular Palestinian Al-Aqsa uprising **"INTIFADA"** and expresses its full solidarity with the Palestinian people in their just and legitimate struggle, against Israeli occupation and aggression, to restore their national inalienable rights, including the right to return to their country, and to self-determination, and to establish their independent state, with the Holy city of Jerusalem as its capital;

13. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** Israel's policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem. **CALLS UPON** Israel, the occupying power, to immediately desist from using excessive and disproportionate fire power against Palestinian civilians, extra-judicial murder, imposition of draconian laws and orders strangling Palestinian economic development through closures and curfews, uprooting of trees, destruction of houses, confiscation of Palestinian land, establishment of illegal Jewish settlements. **CALLS UPON** Israel, the occupying power, to carry out its obligations and withdraw from the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, in compliance with Security Council Resolution 242, and dismantle Jewish settlements in compliance with Security Council Resolution 465. **CONSIDERS** Israel's policies and practices constitute violations of the Principles of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions and a breach of bilateral agreements with the Palestine Liberation Organization;

14. **EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT** for all peace initiatives, including the Joint Egyptian-Jordanian initiative and the recommendations of the Mitchell Report, intended to ensure the stoppage of the cycle of violence and facilitate the resumption of the peace negotiations, **HAILS** the Palestinian leadership for accepting these proposals and the ceasefire and **REQUESTS** the Government of Israel to fully implement in its entirety, as an indivisible package, along with agreements signed and UN Resolutions 242, 338, 194 as the basis for achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region;

15. **WELCOMES** the proposal of Senegal, in its capacity as Chairperson of the Committee for the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, to send a multi-party delegation composed of the OAU, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement to the capitals of the States, permanent members of the UN Security Council and to the UN Headquarters in New York, to sensitize the Palestinian question, and request a meeting of the Security Council to examine the Palestinian question on the sidelines of the meetings of the United Nations General Assembly.

CM/Dec.601 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. RECALLS all the relevant resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on the Middle East situation, which affirm that the Question of Palestine is the core of the Middle East conflict and that no comprehensive, just and lasting peace can be established unless Israel fully withdraws from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights and the Lebanese Shabáa farms and unless the Palestinian people exercise their inalienable national rights in accordance with UN resolutions, in particular, Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 465, 478 and General Assembly Resolutions 181 of 1947, 194 of 1948 and on the basis of the land-for peace formula;

3. **URGES** the United Nations and the International Community to guarantee Israeli's full compliance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency that call for the use of Israel's nuclear installations for peaceful purposes and compel it to open its nuclear installations to international inspection;

4. **CALLS UPON** the Government of Israel to join the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty and refrain from the manufacture, production, testing and possession of nuclear weapons and to place its nuclear facilities under the comprehensive safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency so as to ensure that the Middle East remains an area free of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction;

5. **CONDEMNS** the Israeli Government for its continued military aggression against Syria and Lebanon which threatens peace and security in the whole region and **URGES** the release of all Lebanese prisoners held in Israeli jails;

6. **TAKES NOTE** of the incomplete withdrawal of Israeli troops from South Lebanon and the efforts deployed by the United Nations to restore normalcy to that region and **REQUESTS** the Government of Israel to complete the withdrawal of its forces from the Lebanese Shabáa farms in South Lebanon and the Syrian Golan Heights;

7. **CALLS** for the resumption of negotiations between Israel and Syria, on the basis of Resolutions 242, 338 and the tenets of the Peace Process established at the Madrid Conference and the full implementation of all other agreements and commitments undertaken on all tracks of the peace process in the region;

8. **URGE** all the parties concerned to honour their commitments and resume the negotiations in order to create the necessary conditions for lasting peace in the region.

CM/Dec.602 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Council:

1. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the attempted coup d' Etat in the Central African Republic in the night of 27 to 28 June 2001, in flagrant violation of the principles of the OAU and its decisions on unconstitutional changes, and **COMMENDS** Member States as well as Economic Community for Sahelo-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) lending their support to the legal institutions of the State and for the return of constitutional order in the country;

2. **REITERATES** its condemnation of the use of violence as a means of resolving political differences and **REAFFIRMS** the need to have recourse to dialogue and consultations;

3. **ONCE AGAIN URGES** the stakeholders in the political life in the Central African Republic to seek a rapid solution to the crisis rocking the country through dialogue and respect for democratic principles and good governance;

4. **APPEALS** to Member States and the rest of the International Community to provide the necessary economic and financial assistance for the reconstruction of the Central African Republic and in particular **CALLS ON** the countries which have promised to provide funds at the Pledging Conference in favour of the Central African Republic in New York in May 2000 to honour their commitments.

CM/Dec.603 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE SIGNING OF THE FINAL PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF DJIBOUTI AND THE FRUD-ARME

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION OF** the signing in Djibouti on 12 May 2001 of the final peace Agreement between the Government of Djibouti and the Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy (FRUD-ARME) and **COMMENDS** the Parties concerned, particularly President Ismael Omar Guelleh, for the efforts deployed for the definitive return of peace and stability in Djibouti;

2. **URGENTLY URGES** Member States and the rest of the International Community to provide material and financial assistance to facilitate the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement and back up the efforts deployed by the Parties.

CM/Dec.604 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE RECONCILIATION PROCESS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Council:

1. **WELCOMES** the convening of an all inclusive national dialogue in the Republic of Congo from 17 March to 14 April 2001, and the signing of the Convention for Peace and Reconciliation, in Brazzavile on 14 April 2001;

2. **COMMENDS** President Denis Sassou-Nguesso and the parties which participated in the national dialogue for their commitment to the cause of peace;

3. **URGES** the parties which did not take part in the dialogue to reconsider their position and contribute to the on-going national reconciliation process in the country.

4. **PAYS TRIBUTE TO** H.E. El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Republic of Gabon, for the tireless efforts he has invested, in his capacity as International Mediator, which culminated in the convening of the all inclusive national dialogue;

5. **APPEALS** to Member States and the International Community to lend their full support towards the consolidation of peace and national reconciliation in the Republic of Congo.

CM/Dec.605 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON OAU/CIVIL SOCIETY CO-OPERATION

Council:

1. **RECALLS** the decisions and policies adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government calling for the strengthening of and co-operation with the African Civil Society, calling in particular, the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development (1990), the Declaration on the Political and Socio-Economic situation in Africa and the Fundamental changes taking place in the world (1990) the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (1991), and the Constitutive Act of the African Union (2000);

2. **WELCOMES** the successful convening and outcome of the OAU/Civil Society Conference held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 11 to 15 June 2001, particularly the adoption of the proposed Framework for co-operation between the OAU/African Union and African Civil Society Organizations;

3. **ENCOURAGES** the Secretary General to pursue his efforts aimed at engaging African Civil Society Organizations on the basis of the proposed Framework for Cooperation.

CM/Dec.606 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO INCLUDING DIEGO GARCIA

Council:

1. **REITERATES** its unflinching support to the Government of Mauritius in its endeavours and efforts to restore its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, which forms an integral part of the territory of Mauritius and **CALLS UPON** the United Kingdom to put an end to its continued unlawful occupation of the Chagos Archipelago and to return it to Mauritius thereby completing the process of decolonization;

2. **FURTHER EXHORTS** the United Kingdom authorities not to take any steps or measures likely to adversely impact on the sovereignty of Mauritius;

3. **ENJOINS** the international community to support the legitimate claim of Mauritius and extend all assistance possible to it to secure the return of the Chagos Archipelago to its jurisdiction thereby enabling it to exercise its rightful sovereign responsibilities on the totality of its territory.

CM/Dec.607 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (AEC)

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTES** of the Report;

2. **REITERATES ITS REQUEST** to the Member States which have not yet done so, to ratify or accede to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community as expeditiously as possible;

3. **REQUESTS** Member States, the General Secretariat and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to effectively implement all Community Decisions and Regulations, as well as the recommendations of the Committee on Coordination;

4. **ALSO REQUESTS** the General Secretariat, in collaboration with the RECs, the ECA, the ADB and BADEA, to identify projects having regional and continental coverage, and propose measures for their implementation;

5. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) for the financial assistance it has continued to provide for strengthening the capacity of OAU and the Regional Economic Communities in the implementation of programmes of regional integration and development;

6. **ALSO EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the UNDP for its continued financial support to the OAU in the implementation of the Treaty establishing the AEC;

7. **URGES** the UNDP to formulate, with the OAU, a new programme of assistance, in support of the establishment and functioning of the African Union, including the accelerated implementation of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community;

8. **ENCOURAGES** the General Secretariat to exert more effort at the mobilization of extra-budgetary resources in support of the priority programmes of the Organization.

CM/Dec.608 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE FOLLOW-UP ON THE AFRICA-EUROPE SUMMIT AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAIRO PLAN OF ACTION

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary General on the Follow up on the Africa-Europe Summit, and of the minutes of the Second Meeting of the Bi-Regional Group at Senior Officials' level, held in Lome, Togo on 25 – 26 June 2001;

2. **RECALLS** its Regulations CM/OAU/AEC/Regl.1(VIII) of February 2001 on the Follow-up on the Africa-Europe Summit, particularly the convening of the meetings of the Bi-Regional Committee at the Headquarters of the two institutions, and on the possibility of any Member State hosting one of the two meetings;

3. **REITERATES** OAU's support for the candidature of Burkina Faso to host one of the follow-up ministerial meetings;

4. **MANDATES** the OAU Follow-up Committee, through its Core Group, to assume full responsibility for resolving all outstanding problems with the European Union and to this end:

    (a) **URGES** the two sides to comply with the provisions of the Cairo Plan of Action, particularly the convening of at least two Ministerial meetings to follow-up on the implementation of the Plan of Action, including Africa's external debt, cultural goods and funds illegally taken out of the Continent;

    (b) **CALLS** on the two sides to ensure adequate preparation of these meetings with specific agenda, and the adoption of a joint document on the implementation status of the Cairo Plan of Action;

5. **APPEALS** to the European side to fully cooperate with the African side in clearing all obstacles in order for both parties to focus on substantive issues in the implementation of the Cairo Plan of Action, thereby preserving and sustaining the new partnership between the two sides;

6. **URGES** all Member States to provide the General Secretariat with the required information and inputs so as to facilitate the formulation of a strong African negotiating position on the implementation of the Cairo Plan of Action;

7. **COMMENDS** the Government of Togo for having hosted the Second Meeting of the Bi-Regional group at Senior Officials' level in Lome, Togo from 25 – 26 June 2001;

8. **REQUESTS** all the RECs, the ADB and ECA to cooperate with the OAU in formulating African negotiating positions.

CM/Dec. 609 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE TWENTY-FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE OAU LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations as contained in the report by the Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission and all relevant documents contained therein;

3. **CALLS UPON** the General Secretariat to put in place a follow-up mechanism to monitor the implementation of the various recommendations and decisions taken by the Commission;

4. **REQUESTS** Member States to seriously promote the issues of tripartism and social dialogue at national level with all civil society groups, including women and youth;

5. **REITERATES** the wish of Member States for the ILO and other Development Partners to extend the "Jobs for Africa" programme to all Member States and develop sustainable jobs to bring an end to Contractual condition" of the labour market in Africa;

6. **URGES** the ILO to expedite its programme of technical cooperation to promote fundamental principles and rights at work, strengthen the capacities of the multidisciplinary teams and support Member States in implementing the eight fundamental ILO Conventions;

7. **REQUESTS** the General Secretariat to convene a high level Seminar to further consider the draft OAU Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing and submit the recommendations to the 25th Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission;

8. **CALLS UPON** Member States to consider the issue of trafficking in children and women as an abuse of human rights and enact and implement national legislation against trafficking in children and women;

9. **FURTHER CALLS UPON** Member States to establish National Youth Councils or other permanent institutions for youth and involve youth in the formulation and implementation of youth programmes and to participate actively in the Fourth World Youth Forum to be held in Dakar, Senegal in August 2001;

10. **REITERATES** the need for Member States to adopt strategies to extend social security and protection based on economic, social and political context of each country and to respect gender equality in social security issues;

11. **CALLS UPON** the Pan-African Youth Movement to expand its programmes and activities in the area of HIV/AIDS and extend its programmes in all parts of Africa, including southern Africa;

12. **REQUESTS** Member States to implement the provisions of the Declaration on the African Decade of Disabled Persons and **CALLS UPON** the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI) to elaborate an African Common Position on people with disabilities.

CM/Dec.610 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to urgently convene a meeting of the Committee on Rural Economy and Agriculture as provided for in Article 25 (1, a) of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community and Article 14 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union which would have the following essential duties:

   i) prepare a comprehensive programme, including a definite timetable for the establishment of an African Common Market of basic food commodities; and

   ii) prepare a methodology for implementing the recommendations of the First Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Agriculture held in Lome, Togo from 20 to 21 April 2001; in order to address as a priority the problem of food security in the Continent.

3. **EXPRESSES HIS GRATITUDE** to the Government of the Republic of Togo for having hosted the First Extra-ordinary Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture;

4. **CALLS ON** all Member States of the African Centre for Fertilizer Development to exert maximum effort to meet their financial obligations to the Centre, in order to enable it carry out its programmes;

5. **URGES** all Member States which have not yet done so to sign the Convention of the African Centre for Fertilizer Development and accede to membership of the Centre;

6. **REQUESTS** FAO to provide technical assistance to the OAU General Secretariat, its member States and the RECs in the implementation of strategies and programmes aimed at improving food security in Africa;

7. **RECOMMENDS** that a decision be taken at the level of Heads of State and Government to ensure that the Plan of Action for the Eradication of Tse-Tse Flies be forwarded to the mandated national offices dealing with health, agriculture, livestock, rural development and poverty reduction for inclusion among the objectives of their national plans and programmes for implementation;

8. **CALLS UPON** all Member States to support and participate actively, at the highest level, in the Conference of the World Food Summit Five Years Later scheduled to take place from 5 to 9 November, 2001 in Rome.

CM/Dec.611 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE 12TH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMISSION FOR AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report and the final communiqué;

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Commission as contained in the report and final communiqué;

3. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the government and people of Algeria for the efforts deployed and the excellent facilities provided for the holding of the 12th Ordinary Session of the Standing Commission;

4. **COMMENDS** Member States, the Secretary General of the OAU and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States for the efforts deployed for the holding of the 12th Ordinary Session of the Standing Commission;

5. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to initiate the necessary consultations with the Secretary General of the League of Arab States and the other parties concerned for the implementation of the recommendations adopted at this 12th Session including the proposals made by Sudan, Egypt and Libya on the reactivation of Afro-Arab Cooperation and submit a report to the Seventy-fifth session of Council;

6. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Secretary General to hold the necessary consultations with Member States for the holding of the 13th Ordinary Session of the Commission to be hosted by the OAU or the African Union to be held before the end of 2001.

CM/Dec.612 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON SINGING/PLAYING OF THE OAU ANTHEM AND HOISTING THE OAU FLAG

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** the proposal of the Republic of Namibia on the singing/playing of the OAU Anthem and hoisting of the OAU Flag during official ceremonies in Member States;

2. **CONSIDERS** that the implementation of this proposal will assist in the popularization of the principles of African common identity, unity, solidarity and integration, especially among the youth and children;

3. **ENDORSES** the proposal and **RECOMMENDS** it to Member States for implementation.

CM/Dec.613 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;

2. **CONGRATULATES** His Excellency, Mr. Alpha Oumar KONARE, President of the Republic of Mali on the initiative he took in proposing the establishment of the African Academy of Languages as a factor of development and mutual understanding which could contribute to building and consolidating peace and African renaissance;

3. **ENDORSES** the idea of establishing such an institution and **REQUESTS** that the General Secretariat deploy all efforts to set up and launch activities of the Academy;

4. **INVITES** all Member States, the civil society as well as the entire African and international scientific communities concerned to actively participate in the Academy's activities;

5. **APPEALS** to all Africa's development partners to provide the necessary financial and technical support for the establishment and implementation of the Academy's activities.

CM/Dec.614 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR A POLICY OF MIGRATION IN AFRICA

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;

2. **RECOGNIZES** the challenges African countries are facing in regard to the flow of irregular migration, trafficking and migrant right as well as HIV/AIDS and related issues;

3. **NOTES WITH CONCERN** the "Brain-Drain" issue affecting our continent in a moment where our countries need their qualified and skilled manpower to face the globalization challenges;

4. **RECOMMENDS** to Member States to work towards free movement of people and to strengthening intra-regional and inter-regional co-operation in matters concerning migration on the basis of the established processes of migration dialogue at regional and sub-regional levels and to create enabling conditions for the participation of migrants, in particular, African Diaspora in the development of their home countries;

5. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to work towards the development of a strategic framework for migration policy in Africa that could contribute to addressing the challenges posed by migration, but also make effective use of the opportunity presented by the phenomenon and thereby ensuring the integration of migration and related issues into their national and regional agenda for security, stability, development and cooperation;

6. **REQUESTS** the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with the OAU, ADB, the International community and funding organizations and other stakeholders, to strengthen their activities in the Continent by promoting specific development projects in areas predisposed to international migration; as well as health and legal protection of the rights of migrants in their capacity as vulnerable persons, specially in conflict and transit areas and to set-up, in collaboration with Member States, research networks into the Continent in order to enhance Member States ability to formulate migration policies;

7. **CALLS UPON** IOM to continue to help African countries to encourage and facilitate the return of their qualified expatriate nationals and promote the initiated programme of Migration for the development of Africa (MIDA);

8. **FINALLY REQUESTS** the Secretary General, in collaboration with IOM and other interested partners, to establish such modalities that would enable monitoring and support of the activities relating to migration in the Continent and submit regular reports thereon to the Council.

CM/Dec.615 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE 8TH ALL-AFRICA TRADE FAIR

Council:

1. **ENDORSES** 22-26 April 2002 as the date for the 8th All-Africa Trade Fair scheduled to be held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt;

2. **URGES** all member states to take note of the above date, disseminate it as widely as possible and ensure that no major national, sub-regional or continental event is organized to clash with the date of the Fair;

3. **CALLS** on all member states and all collaborating institutions designated as members of the Technical Organizing Committee (TOC) to participate actively in the preparatory process of the Fair;

4. **INVITES** all member states to begin the preparations at the national level for the Fair and to mobilize all potential participants, especially the private sector agents, the chambers of commerce and all economic operators to participate in the Fair.

CM/Dec.616 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE HOLDING OF AN EXPERTS MEETING ON AFRICA'S EXTERNAL DEBT AND REGIONAL SEMINAR ON AFRICA'S EXTERNAL DEBT

Council:

1. **NOTES** that the General Secretariat has started the preparations for the holding of the Meeting of the Africa's Independent Experts' Group and the Regional Seminar on Africa's External Debt, respectively;

2. **ACCEPTS** the offer of the Government of Senegal to host the meeting of the Independent Experts' Group on Africa's External Debt during the month of November 2001, in Dakar, Senegal and the African Regional Seminar on Africa's External Debt also in Dakar, Senegal at a date to be determined;

3. **URGES** all Member States to respond favourably to the offer of Senegal by sending their national experts to participate in the Meeting of the Independent Experts' Group and the Regional Seminar on Africa's Debt;

4. **CALLS** on all Member States to support these two initiatives to ensure that they contribute to the search for a durable solution to the African External Debt Problem;

5. **CALLS** on the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters to consider allocating the necessary budgetary provisions to enable the General Secretariat engage the services of the Independent Experts and/or Consultants to provide the required technical assistance to support the preparatory process;

6. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General, in consultation with relevant institutions, to finalize arrangements for the composition of the Independent Experts Group in order to organize the Meeting of the Independent Experts' Group in November 2001.

CM/Dec.617 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the information provided by the Republic of South Africa on the status of the preparation of the World Conference against Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance due to take place in Durban, South Africa from 31 August to 7 September 2001 in particular, the African Preparatory Conference held in Dakar, Senegal from 22-24 January 2001;

2. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** of the report on the Dakar Consultation of June 2001 on the World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and **APPROVES** the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

3. **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP APPRECIATION** on the efforts made by South Africa to ensure the success of the Conference;

4. **REQUESTS** Member States to prepare adequately and to ensure their effective high level and gender balanced participation at the conference given the important issues to be discussed;

5. **REQUESTS** the General Secretariat to follow closely the preparation and the holding of Durban Conference and provide necessary assistance to Member States and African Organizations attending the Conference.

CM/Dec.618 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE DRAFT PROTOCOL TO THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS RELATING TO THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN AFRICA

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** of the report on the Dakar Consultation of June 2001 on the process of formulation of the Draft Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, and **APPROVES** the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

2. **INVITES** Member States to ensure adequate preparation of the experts meetings on the Draft Protocol relating to the Rights of Women in Africa;

3. **REQUESTS** the General Secretariat to take necessary measures in order to convene the experts meetings and report to the Seventy-fifth Ordinary Session of Council.

CM/Dec.619 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD SOLIDARITY FUND

Council:

1. **RECALLS** Decision AHG/Decl.4 (XXXVI) supporting the appeal made by H.E. Mr. Zine El Abidine BEN ALI, President of the Republic of Tunisia for the establishment of a World Solidarity Fund;

2. **ALSO RECALLS** Decision CM/Dec.570 (LXXIII) inviting Member States as well as African Organizations and institutions to transmit to the United Nations Secretary General their positive and concrete proposals concerning the establishment of a World Solidarity Fund;

3. **RECOGNIZES** the important role of the World Solidarity Fund in the realization of the objectives set by the International Community in the Declaration adopted by the Millennium Summit "to reduce by half, by the year 2015, the percentage of the world population whose income is below one dollar a day and that of people suffering from hunger ...";

4. **UNDERSCORES** the importance of the consultations by the United Nations Secretary General pursuant to paragraph 14 of the UN General Assembly Resolution 55/210 to enlist the views of countries as well as regional and international organizations and institutions on the establishment of a World Solidarity Fund and **COMMENDS** Member Countries and African Organizations and institutions on the responses received to date;

5. **TAKES NOTE OF** the importance accorded by the Millennium Declaration to solidarity as a fundamental value in international relations in the twenty-first century, bearing in mind the voluntary nature of contributions to this Fund;

6. **CALLS ON** Member Countries which have not yet responded positively to the letter of the United Nations Secretary General to do so as soon as possible, as a further demonstration of the interest of the countries of our Continent in this Fund as an instrument to combat poverty by the International Community;

7. **CALLS ON** the United Nations Secretary General to lend his personal support towards the establishment of the Fund to enable it to become operational as soon as possible;

8. **APPEALS** to all Member States of the United Nations and international organizations to contribute to the realization of this noble initiative;

9. **REQUESTS** the Current Chairman of the Assembly to seize the United Nations Secretary General of this Decision as the common position of Member States of the Organization of African Unity within the framework of the consultations held in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 14 of the United Nations Resolution 55/210;

10. **CALLS ON** the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity to monitor the progress made in this matter and initiate the necessary contacts for the implementation of this Decision during consideration of the report of the Secretary General by the United Nations General Assembly.

CM/Dec.620 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE ACP/EU NEGOTIATIONS

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** that negotiations of WTO-compatible Trade Arrangements under the Cotonou ACP-EC Partnership Agreement is scheduled to be launched in September, 2002 and that the ACP Ministerial Committee on Trade has been established and has begun its work;

2. **URGES** all Member States which are members of the ACP Group and which have not yet done so, to take the necessary steps to ratify the ACP/EC Cotonou Partnership Agreement; and **CALLS** on all EU States to do likewise;

3. **DIRECTS** the OAU Panel of Experts, working in close consultation with the African Ambassadors in Brussels, to provide an analysis of the various options of Trade Arrangements for the consideration of Member States, with emphasis on the issue of geographical configuration and other issues envisaged for negotiations under the Cotonou Partnership Agreement with the EU, taking into account the objectives of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

4. **CALLS** on all eligible Member States and Regional groupings and organizations to submit requests to the ACP Secretariat for financial assistance in preparation for the forthcoming ACP/EU and WTO negotiations.

CM/Dec.621 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON AFRICA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE FOURTH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE, DOHA, QATAR, 9-13 NOVEMBER 2001

Council:

1. **NOTES** that a High-level Brainstorming Meeting for Africa's Trade Negotiators was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 26-29 June, 2001 preparatory to the 4th Ministerial Conference of the WTO scheduled for 9-13 November, in Doha, Qatar;

2. **CALLS ON** the forthcoming 4th Ordinary Session of the OAU/AEC Ministers of Trade scheduled to take place in Abuja, Nigeria on 17-21 September, 2001 to review the Conclusions and Recommendations of the High Level Meeting, and provide the necessary political leadership for Africa's participation in the Doha Ministerial Conference of the WTO, including the designation of Spokespersons to articulate Africa's interest during the negotiations;

3. **URGES** all African countries, which are members of the WTO, to take the necessary steps to attend the 4th WTO Ministerial Conference scheduled to take place in Doha, Qatar in November 2001 and maintain their unity and solidarity throughout the negotiations;

4. **URGES** that all identifiable interests of Member States and/or groups of states, should be taken into account for the formulation of a Common African Position for further negotiations;

5. **INVITES** Member States participating in the 4th WTO Ministerial Conference to be vigilant so that the international negotiations and initiatives for Africa do not undermine the regional integration process and operationalisation of the African Union;

6. **INVITES** the UNDP and other donors to provide the required financial assistance for the OAU Panel of Experts and all the activities prior to the 4th OAU/AEC Ministers of Trade Conference scheduled to take place in Abuja, Nigeria in September 2001;

7. **REQUESTS** the General Secretariat to coordinate the preparatory activities for the conference in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other institutions that support Africa's interests. To this end, the work of the OAU Panel of Experts on Trade Negotiations should be strengthened in order to provide the required technical assistance to Member States;

8. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the General Secretariat to ensure effective coordination of Member States and facilitate the sharing of experiences and harmonization of their positions and views emanating from all the RECs during the preparatory process.

DECISION ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES FOR POSTS WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Council:

1. **APPROVES** the recommendations of the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures as contained in its Report;

2. **DECIDES** therefore to endorse the following candidatures:

   i) Mr. Sayed K. El Masry of the Arab Republic of Egypt for membership of the United Nations Committee Against Torture, during elections scheduled for November;

   ii) The Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Cameroon for the non-permanent seats reserved for Africa on the United Nations Security Council, during elections to be held at the 56th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2001;

   iii) Egypt and Nigeria as Category II members, and Algeria, Cameroon, Mauritius, Senegal and Uganda as Category III members of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Association (ICAO), during elections scheduled for September/October 2001 in Montreal (Canada), these candidatures having been endorsed by the 16th Plenary Session of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) in Cairo, Egypt in Aril 2001;

   iv) Algeria and Egypt for membership of the Executive Council of UNESCO, during elections scheduled to take place at the 31st Session of the Council in Paris, France in October/November 2001;

   v) Egypt for membership of UNIDO Industrial Development Council;

vi) Egypt and Tunisia for membership of the Programmes and Budgets Committee of UNIDO, during elections due to take place in Vienna, Austria in December 2001;

vii) Tunisia for membership of the International Coordination Council for Man and the Biosphere and of the Special Committee for the Restitution of Cultural Goods to their Countries of Origin, subsidiary organs of UNESCO, during elections scheduled to take place in Paris, France in October 2001.

3. **SUPPORTS** the action initiated by the Union of National African Paediatric Societies and Associations (UNAPSA) for the election of Professor Adenike Grange of Nigeria, to the post of President of the International Paediatric Association, during elections scheduled to be held in Beijing, Republic of China in September 2001.

CM/Dec.623 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, GENETIC AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE IN AFRICA

Council:

1. **COMMENDS** the Secretary General on his initiative and efforts in developing the draft African Model Law on the Protection of the Rights of Local Communities, Farmers and Breeders and for the Regulation of access to Biological Resources, as well as the draft African Model Law on bio-safety and an Africa-wide Bio-Safety System;

2. **SUPPORTS** the convening of the proposed experts meetings intended to further examine the draft model laws within the framework of the African common positions on intellectual property, generally, and the Trips Agreement in particular; and

URGES MEMBER STATES TO:

i) **Participate** effectively in the two on-going processes of developing model laws and to use these models as a basis for finalizing their national legislations by adapting their provisions to the national context and within the framework of the WTO negotiations, whilst maintaining, as much as possible, the principle of uniformity of national laws of integrating African economies;

ii) **Examine** ways and means of raising awareness about the protection of genetic resources, indigenous knowledge and folklore, taking into account the need to protect the rights of local communities;

iii) **Identify**, catalogue, record and document the genetic and biological resources and traditional knowledge, including expressing of folklore held by their communities, within the framework of national laws;

iv) **Exchange** information and experiences and continue, within the framework of the OAU, with the search for joint solutions to problems of common concern, and with the efforts aimed at developing common positions, policies and strategies in relation to these issues.

CM/Dec.624 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE INTRODUCTION OF SPANISH AS A WORKING LANGUAGE OF THE OAU/AU

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposal to introduce Spanish as a working language of the OAU/AU;

2. **APPROVES** the introduction of Spanish as a working language;

3. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to work out the modalities for its inclusion in the next budget of the Organization.

CM/Dec.625 (LXXIV)

DECISION ON THE LAND QUESTION IN ZIMBABWE

Council:

1. **REAFFIRMS** that the inequitable colonial distribution of land where 1% of the population (mainly white British settlers) own over 70% of the best arable land in Zimbabwe has always been at the core of the political, economic and social struggle in Zimbabwe;

2. **RECALLS** that the liberation struggle was essentially, inter alia, a struggle by the people of Zimbabwe to reclaim the land which they were dispossessed of by British colonialism;

3. **FURTHER RECALLS** that, at the Lancaster House Conference, the British Government undertook to fund a land settlement programme in Zimbabwe;

4. **NOTES** that the land resettlement programme has been repeatedly frustrated by Britain's refusal to honour this commitment which it undertook at the Lancaster House Conference;

5. **NOTES FURTHER** that the introduction of extraneous political issues into the land question is aimed at shifting focus away from Britain's responsibilities;

6. **REAFFIRMS** that, despite efforts to internationalize the issue, the land question in Zimbabwe remains essentially a bilateral dispute between Zimbabwe and Britain;

7. **NOTES** that British lobbying has led to the European Union demanding a deep and wide-ranging political dialogue with Zimbabwe under Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement;

8. **URGES** Britain to fulfill the outstanding commitment it undertook during the decolonization process by honouring its obligations on the land question made at Lancaster House;

9. **APPLAUDS** Zimbabwe's determination to solve this colonial issue once and for all by engaging in a dialogue with Britain;

10. **CALLS** on Britain to respond positively to Zimbabwe's readiness to enter into dialogue;

11. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the progress that has been achieved through the "fast track" resettlement programme instituted by the Government of Zimbabwe, in spite of severe resource constraints;

12. **WELCOMES** the tireless efforts exerted by Presidents Obasanjo and Mbeki and other African leaders to mediate in this bilateral dispute between Zimbabwe and Britain;

13. **NOTES WITH CONCERN** British moves to mobilize European and North American countries to isolate and vilify Zimbabwe leading to the imposition of formal and informal sanctions against it;

In the light of the above the OAU therefore:

14. **RESOLVES** to participate in the Zimbabwe-EU dialogue as provided for under paragraph 7 of Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement which states that regional and sub-regional groupings shall be associated with such a political dialogue;

15. **DECIDES** to establish an OAU Committee consisting of Nigeria (Chair), Algeria, Cameroon, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia to coordinate with Zimbabwe at all fora wherever the Zimbabwe land issue is raised.

CM/OAU/AEC/Regl.1 (IX)

REGULATION

The Council of Ministers:

Considering the Constitutive Act of the African Union,

Considering further Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (AEC),

Recalling decision AHG/OAU/AEC/Dec.1 (IV) and Regulation CM/OAU/AEC/Regl.1 (VII) adopted respectively, by the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the AEC in Lome (Togo) in July 2000.

Having examined the reports of the Secretary General on implementation of the said Treaty and on other economic and social issues,

Having taken note of the reports of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs),

HEREBY RULES:

1. **IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY REGULATIONS AND DECISIONS:**

(a) Member States, the General Secretariat of OAU/AEC and RECs are requested to effectively implement all the regulations and decisions of the AEC and the recommendations of the Committee on Coordination provided for in Article 6 of the Protocol on Relations between AEC and RECs;

(b) The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are commended for the financial and technical assistance they have continued to provide to the OAU and the RECs, for the implementation integration and development programmes in the continent;

(c) The UNDP is requested to elaborate in collaboration - with the OAU, a new assistance programme for a speedy implementation of the AEC Treaty within the framework of the African Union.

2. COOPERATION BETWEEN AEC AND THE RECS

The AEC, the RECs, the ECA and ADB are requested to take necessary measures to establish an information exchange system and to popularize the programmes and the activities of the AEC and the RECs. In this connection, they are requested to:

(a) create, if they have not yet done so, Internet sites, establish links between their web-sites, define the framework for standardization and harmonization of the contents of their respective sites, and take necessary steps to regularly up-date the said content:

(b) prepare as early as possible:

   (i) a strategy for the popularization of programmes of AEC and RECs within and outside the continent, with special emphasis on the target groups, as well as on the content of the message, and,

   (ii) guidelines for defining and involving the civil society in popularization activities;

(c) organize at regional and continental levels, seminars for the private sector on programmes and activities of the AEC and the RECs and on advantages of economic integration.

3. COOPERATION AMONG THE RECS

The RECs are requested to:

(i) strengthen their ties of cooperation and enhance exchange of experience and programmes among them;

(ii) host and organize, as early as possible and on rotational basis, inter secretariat sectoral meetings under the coordination of the General Secretariat of the OAU/AEC.

4. MOBILISATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

The OAU/AEC General Secretariat should:

(i) in collaboration with ADB and the Policy Analysis Support Unit (PASU), take necessary steps and measures to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariats of RECs, to make them more proactive in designing programmes and projects that would enhance their eligibility for the funds and resources for financing economic integration;

(ii) exert further efforts to mobilize extra-budgetary resources to backstop the priority programmes of the AEC and the RECs.

5. HARMONISATION OF JUDICIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS AS WELL AS SECTORAL AND MACRO-ECONOMIC POLICIES

(i) RECs are requested to forward to the OAU/AEC General Secretariat their programmes and achievements in the field of harmonization of policies;

(ii) The General Secretariat of the OAU/AEC is requested to convene, as soon as possible, meetings of experts in the above areas with a view to formulating the required strategies.

6. IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY INTEGRATION PROJECTS

The OAU/AEC General Secretariat and the Secretariat of the RECs are requested to identify projects with regional as well as continental coverage, promote these projects with donors and prepare measures for their implementation, with the support of the ADB and the ECA.

7. **LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

(a) The recommendations as adopted by the Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission and all relevant documents contained therein are approved;

(b) The Secretary General is requested to put in place a follow-up mechanism to monitor the implementation of the various recommendations and decisions taken by the Commission;

(c) Member States are requested to seriously promote the issues of tripartism and social dialogue at national level with all civil society groups, including women and youth;

(d) The ILO and other Development Partners are invited to extend the "Jobs for Africa" Programme to all Member States and develop sustainable jobs to bring an end to "contractual condition" of the labour market in Africa;

(e) The ILO is further urged to expedite its programme of technical cooperation to promote fundamental principles and rights at work, strengthen the capacities of the multidisciplinary teams and support Member States in implementing the eight fundamental ILO Conventions;

(f) The General Secretariat is requested to convene a high level Seminar to further consider the draft OAU Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing and submit the recommendations to the 25th Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission;

(g) Member States are requested to:

   i. consider as crime the issue of trafficking in children and women, and, to this end, take appropriate legislative and administrative measures,

ii. establish National Youth Councils or other permanent institutions for youth and involve youth in the formulation and implementation of youth programmes and to participate actively in the Fourth World Youth Forum to be held in Dakar, Senegal in August 2001.

(h) Member States should adopt strategies to extend social security and protection based on economic, social and political context of each country and respect gender equality in social security issues;

(i) The Pan-African Youth Movement is called upon to expand its programmes and activities in the area of HIV/AIDS and extend its programmes in all parts of Africa, including southern Africa;

(j) Member States should also implement the provisions of the Declaration on the African Decade of Disabled Persons and the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI) and elaborate an African Common Position on people with disabilities.

8. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR AN INTEGRATED POLICY ON MIGRATION

(a) Member States are invited to work towards:

(i) free movement of people and strengthening intra-regional and inter-regional cooperation in matters concerning migration on the basis of the established processes of migration dialogue at regional and sub-regional levels and create enabling conditions for the participation of migrants, in particular, the African Diaspora in the development of their home countries;

(ii) the development of a strategic framework for migration policy in Africa that could contribute to addressing the challenges posed by migration, - but also make effective use of the opportunity presented by the phenomenon and thereby ensure the integration of migration and related issues into their national and regional agenda for security, stability, development and cooperation;

(b) The International Organization for Migration (IOM), in partnership with the OAU, ADB, the International Community and funding organizations and other stakeholders are also invited to:

(i) strengthen their activities in the Continent by promoting specific development projects in areas pre-disposed to international migration; as well as health and legal protection of the rights of migrants in their capacity as vulnerable persons, especially in conflict and transit areas and set-up, in collaboration with Member States, research networks in the Continent in order to enhance Member States capacity to formulate migration policies;

(ii) continue to help African countries to encourage and facilitate the return of their qualified expatriate nationals and promote the initiated programme of Migration for the Development of Africa (MIDA);

(c) The Secretary General, in collaboration with IOM and other interested partners, is requested to establish such modalities as would enable monitoring and support of the activities relating to migration in the Continent and submit regular reports thereon to Council.

9. FUTURE OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

(a) The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt is commended for hosting the Pan-African Forum on the Future of Children in Cairo, from 28 to 31 May, 2001;

(b) UNICEF and Save the Children (Sweden), all the UN Agencies and other stakeholders are also commended for their continued support and assistance in the preparation of the Pan-African Forum on the Future of Children;

(c) The African Common Position on Children is endorsed as Africa's contribution to the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Children, to be held in New York in September, 2001;

(d) Mandate is given to the First Lady of Egypt Madam Suzanne Mubarak, to present the African Common Position to the Extra-Ordinary Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Women due to take place in New York in September 2001, and to do her utmost to make the voice of African children heard at the General Assembly.

(e) Member States are called upon to:

   (i) renew and implement their commitments to African children as contained in the Cairo Declaration and to participate actively, at the highest level, in the UNGASS on Children;

   (ii) speed up the ratification process of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, if they have not already done so;

   (iii) implement the provisions of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, follow-up on the decisions and recommendations of the UNGASS on Children and implement the African Common Position on Children, more specifically the Plan of Action on the Future of African Children; and

   (iv) send periodic reports on their activities and programmes related to children issues, to the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child through the General Secretariat;

(f) The General Secretariat is requested to work closely with UNICEF and other stakeholders, and with the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and to report to Council every two years on the implementation status of the recommendations of the UNGASS and the African Common Position.

10. SPECIAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND FOR DROUGHT AND FAMINE IN AFRICA

(a) The recommendations of the 25th Ordinary Session of the Policy Committee for the proper management of the Fund, are approved;

(b) The setting up of a Sub-Committee to examine the possibility of expanding the activities of the Fund to cover other natural disasters is also approved;

(c) Member States which have received assistance from the Fund are requested to submit, as a matter of urgency, their project implementation reports to the Secretary General to enable him undertake an evaluation thereof;

(d) Are commended, Member States who have made voluntary contributions and those who have honoured their commitments to the Special Emergency Assistance Fund;

(e) Is reiterated the appeal to Member States and to the international community to provide financial, technical and material support to the Special Fund.

11. DRUG CONTROL IN AFRICA

1. The OAU General Secretariat is commended for the steps it has taken to eliminate the illicit production, trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in Africa;

2. Gratitude is expressed to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) for the invaluable contribution rendered to the Secretariat in the implementation of the OAU Plan of Action on Drug Control in Africa, through its funding of the Organization's project on Institutional Capacity Building;

3. Appeal is made to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to consider, after a thorough evaluation of the state of implementation of the Joint Project the extension of the period of this project for at least one additional year;

4. Mandate is given to the Secretary-General, in putting in place the new structure of the African Union, to create a Drug Control and Crime Prevention Unit within that structure, in view of the emerging seriousness of the drug abuse and trafficking situation in Africa, and especially the linkage between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS, conflicts and organized crimes in the Continent;

5. Appeal is also made to Member States to second if they so wish, an Expert on drug control, at their own expense, to assist the OAU General Secretariat during the negotiations for the extension and during interim periods in order to forestall a break in the implementation of the Plan of Action on Drug Control in Africa;

6. Member States are urged to strengthen their fight against Illicit Drug Abuse and Trafficking on the Continent, with the full collaboration of workers, employers, educational institutions, civil society organizations and other stakeholders;

7. The Secretary-General is requested to explore ways and means of establishing a mechanism for an African Fund for Drug Control on voluntary basis as was recommended by the 22nd OAU Labour and Social

Affairs Commission in Windhoek, Namibia; and endorsed by the 70th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government both held in Algiers, Algeria in July 1999 and calls upon OAU partners, donor agencies and the International Community to render the necessary support to the Secretariat in this endeavour;

8. The Drug Control Focal Point is requested to step up its activities in close collaboration with all the Regional Economic Communities, so as to overcome this scourge;

9. The Secretary-General is further requested to:

   (i) take appropriate steps aimed at updating the OAU Plan of Action for Drug Control in Africa in view of current emerging drug issues in the Continent so as to be in line with global approaches to solve the problem;

   (ii) submit regular reports on current drug situation in the Continent to Sessions of the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

12. INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS

(a) Interpretation and Implementation of the Rules Governing International Negotiations

i. Seminars should be organized by the OAU/AEC General Secretariat, the RECs, ECA and ADB for the purpose of strengthening the capacity of the concerned Member States and the RECs in preparing for the forthcoming international negotiations, in particular the 4th Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the WTO-Compatible Trade Provisions of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement;

ii. The OAU/AEC, the ECA, ADB and the WTO should provide African countries with technical assistance in order to enable them better understand, interpret and accede to international Agreements and Initiatives so as to meet the necessary conditions for deriving maximum benefits from them.

(b) WTO

(i) Note is taken of the High-level Brainstorming Meeting for Africa's Trade negotiators held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 26 – 29 June, 2001 preparatory to the WTO 4th Ministerial Conference scheduled for 9-13 November, in Doha, Qatar;

(ii) The OAU/AEC Ministers of Trade meeting in their 4th Ordinary Session scheduled to take place in Abuja, Nigeria on 17-21 September, 2001 are invited to review the Conclusions and Recommendations of the High Level Meeting, and provide the necessary political leadership for Africa's participation in the Doha Ministerial Conference of the WTO, including the designation of Spokespersons to articulate Africa's interest during the negotiations;

(iii) All African countries, members of the WTO are urged to take the necessary steps to attend the 4th WTO Ministerial Conference scheduled to take place in Doha, Qatar in November 2001 and maintain their unity and solidarity throughout the negotiations;

(iv) All identifiable interests of Member States and/or groups of states, should be taken into account in the formulation of a Common African Position for further negotiations;

(v) All Member States participating in the 4th WTO Ministerial Conference are requested to be vigilant so that the international negotiations and initiatives for Africa do not undermine the regional integration process and operationalization of the African Union;

(vi) The UNDP and other donors are requested to provide the requisite financial assistance for the OAU Panel of Experts and all the activities prior to the 4th OAU/AEC Ministers of Trade Conference scheduled to take place in Abuja, Nigeria in September, 2001;

(vii) The General Secretariat is requested to:

   (a) coordinate the preparatory activities for the conference in collaboration with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other institutions that support Africa's interests. To this end, the work of the OAU Panel of Experts on Trade Negotiations should be strengthened in order to provide the required technical assistance to Member States;

   (b) ensure effective coordination of Member States' positions and facilitate the sharing of experiences and harmonization of the positions and views emanating from all the RECs during the preparatory process.

(c) **Afro-Arab Cooperation**

i. The Government and people of Algeria are commended for the efforts deployed and the excellent facilities provided for the holding of the 12th Ordinary Session of the Standing Commission;

ii. Member States, the OAU Secretary General and the LAS Secretary General are also commended for the efforts they have invested to ensure the convening of the 12th Session of the Standing Commission;

iii. The recommendations of the Commission as contained in the report and final communiqué of the Commission are endorsed;

iv The Secretary General is requested to:

- initiate the necessary consultations with the Secretary General of the League of Arab States and the other parties concerned, for the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the 12th Session, including the proposals made by the Sudan, Egypt and Libya on the reactivation of Afro-Arab Cooperation, and submit a report thereon to the 75th Ordinary Session of Council;

- to hold the necessary consultations with Member States for the convening of the 13th Ordinary Session of the Commission to be hosted by the OAU or the African Union.

v. The initiatives to promote financial and technical cooperation between the BADEA and the OAU are endorsed, and the two Secretariats are invited to carry out consultations as soon as possible for the effective implementation of this cooperation;

vi. The Secretary General is requested, in collaboration with his counterpart of the League of Arab States to take the necessary measures for the organization of the "Afro-Arab Forum for the promotion of investments in the agricultural sector" within the context of the 3rd Afro-Arab Business Week;

vii. Note is taken with satisfaction of the provision by the Malian government, to the OAU and the League of Arab States of the premises for the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute and for the residence of the Director General, and the Secretary-General, in consultation with the counterpart of the League of Arab States, is requested to field a joint mission to inspect the premises.

viii. The Regional Economic Communities, the concerned African institutions, particularly the ADB in collaboration with Arab institutions, especially BADEA are invited to render their technical and financial support towards the implementation of this project;

ix. Note is also taken with satisfaction of the on-going preparations and facilities accorded by the host country for the organization of the 5th Afro-Arab Trade Fair to be held in Tripoli (Lebanon) from 6 to 14 October 2001;

x. Member States are requested to take appropriate measures for the widest possible publicity of this event, in order to ensure massive participation of African countries, in the different aspects of the Fair.

(d) Follow-up to the Africa-Europe Summit

i. The Government of Togo is commended for the measures it has taken for the organization of the second Meeting of the bi-Regional Group at Senior Officials' level which was held in Lome, Togo on 25-26 June 2001;

ii. The OAU Follow-up Committee, through its Core Group is mandated to assume full responsibility for resolving all outstanding problems with the EU, and to this effect the two parties are:

(a) exhorted to comply with the provisions of the Cairo Plan of Action, particularly the convening of at least two ministerial meetings to follow up on the implementation of the Plan of Action including the issue of Africa's external debt, cultural goods and the funds illegally taken out of the African Continent;

(b) are requested to make adequate preparations for these meetings with precise agenda and a joint document on the implementation status of the Cairo Plan of Action;

iii. The offer by Burkina Faso to host one of these ministerial meetings is reiterated;

iv. The EU is called upon to fully cooperate with the African side in clearing all obstacles in order for both parties to focus on a comprehensive implementation of the Cairo Plan of Action, in order to preserve and perpetuate this new partnership between the two entities;

v. All Member States are urged to provide the General Secretariat with the requisite information and inputs so as to facilitate the formulation of a strong African negotiating position on implementation of the Cairo Plan of Action;

vi. All the RECs, the ADB and ECA are requested to cooperate with the OAU in formulating African negotiating positions, vis-a-vis the the European Union.

(e) ACP/EU Negotiations

i. Note is taken of the fact that negotiations of WTO-compatible Trade Arrangements under the Cotonou ACP-EC Partnership Agreement is scheduled to be launched in September, 2002 and that the ACP Ministerial Committee on Trade has been established and has begun its work;

ii. All Member States which are also members of the ACP Group and which have not yet done so, are urged to take the necessary steps to ratify the ACP/EC Cotonou Partnership Agreement; and all EU States are called upon to do likewise;

iii. The OAU Panel of Experts, working in close consultation with the African Ambassadors in Brussels, is mandated to provide an analysis of various options of Trade arrangements for the consideration of Member States, with emphasis on the issue of geographical configuration and other issues envisaged for negotiations under the Cotonou Partnership Agreement with the EU, taking into account the objectives of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

iv. All eligible Member States and regional groupings and organizations are invited to submit requests to the ACP Secretariat for financial assistance in preparation for the forthcoming ACP/EU and WTO negotiations.

13. AFRICA'S EXTERNAL DEBT

(a) The offer of the Government of Senegal to host the meeting of the Independent Group of African Experts on Africa's External Debt in Dakar, Senegal in November, 2001 and the African Regional Seminar on

Africa's External Debt also in Dakar at a date to be determined is accepted;

(b) All Member States are urged to:

  (i) respond positively to Senegal's offer by sending their national experts to participate in the meeting of the Independent Group of African Experts as well as in the Regional Seminar on Africa's indebtedness;

  (ii) lend their support to these two initiatives to ensure that they contribute to the search for a lasting solution to Africa's external debt problem.

(c) The Advisory Committee on Administrative, Financial and Budgetary Matters should make the necessary budgetary allocation to enable the General Secretariat to engage the services of the Independent Experts and/or consultants that could provide the requisite technical assistance towards the preparatory process;

(d) The Secretary General in consultation with relevant institutions should finalize arrangements for the constitution of the Independent Group of Experts with a view to organizing the meeting of the Independent Group of Experts in November, 2001.

14. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 8TH ALL-AFRICA TRADE FAIR

(a) The dates 22-26 April 2002 are approved for the 8th All-Africa Trade Fair scheduled to be held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt:

(b) All Member States are urged to take note of the above date, disseminate it as widely as possible and ensure that no major national sub-regional or continental event is organized to clash with the date of the Fair:

(c) All Member States and all collaborating institutions designated as members of the Technical Organizing

Committee are requested to participate actively in the process preparatory to the Fair;

(d) All Member States are invited to begin preparations at national level for the Fair and to mobilize all potential participants, especially private sector agents, chambers of commerce and all economic operators to participate in the Fair.

Done at Lusaka, Zambia, on 8 July 2001

Sipakeli Keli WALUBITA
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Zambia
Chairman of the Council